FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Soviet Union

Vol III No 044

4 March 1980

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CALL FOR EUROMISSILES STRUGGLE, SOVIET THREAT MYTH EXPOSURE

LD030941 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Candidate of Historical Sciences Z. Mirskiy article: "Who Is Cultivating Terror? Western Propaganda's False Myths About the 'Soviet Threat'--A Pretext for Increasing Washington's Expansion"]

[Text] How many empty and lying words are now being expended by Western propaganda organs in the attempt to represent as "interference" the sending of a limited contingent of Soviet troops into Afghanistan at the request of its legitimate government! The meaning of this malicious anti-Soviet ballyhoo, which probably beats all previous records, was exposed by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in his speech to voters in Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug. "Washington," he said, "simply needs a pretext for increasing its expansion in Asia." The louder the newspaper headlines andvenerable penpushers on the so-called "Soviet threat" shout about this, the clearer it becomes to everyone that behind this ballyhoo is an attempt to conceal their own interference, which is real, and not invented. And not only in Asia or Africa, but in Western Europe too.

The more days and weeks are counted off on the calendar since the December NATO session, the more clearly the world public sees the ruinous nature of the session's decision on "upgrading" Europe's arms and the monstrous deception by means of which it was foisted on the West Europeans. It is quite obvious that thanks to the "Euromissiles" the United States has obtained the opportunity to interfere in Western Europe's affairs. "It has become obvious," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted in analyzing the international situation which has arisen, "that the present U.S. leadership is following a line of undermining detente and exacerbating the international atmosphere. It is trying to dictate its will to the socialist states and other countries."

Many people in Western Europe rightly believe that NATO's decision on "Euromissiles" has caused great damage to the relaxation of tension. Not having responded to the peace initiative put forward by L.I. Brezhnev in Berlin on 6 October 1979, the Pentagon and NATO are not only making talks on that problem impossible, but even erecting a new, still more significant barrier in the path of the process of arms reduction throughout the world.

The NATO decision is also poisoning the moral and political atmosphere in Europe. In the West it is sowing the seeds of hostility toward the socialist countries, and in the East it is naturally making the peoples doubt whether the lessons of World War II have been learned. Surely this is not indicated by the bellicose incantations of British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher on the misfortunes--even more terrible than in the last war--that could befall the Soviet people.

Another question also arises: Will Western Europe's security gain from the addition of nearly 600 more missiles and warheads to the 8,000 American nuclear warheads already on its territory? Of course not. Not only because sitting on a large powder keg is extremely dangerous, but also because every new missile launchpad on West European territory is a target for an inevitable retaliatory strike from the victim of an aggressive attack.

Here it should be remembered that the "Euromissiles" will be at the Pentagon's disposal, but Western Europe will have to reap the possible terrible fruits. Those West Europeans who say that the new missiles will never be used should be advised not to build illusions concerning the true intentions of NATO and the Pentagon which are feverishly preparing "first strike" weapons against the USSR and other socialist countries and are therefore prepared to sacrifice Western Europe.

For instance, let us open the Washington POST newspaper for 17 May 1978, which published a completely unambiguous article on the eve of the Washington NATO session which adopted an arms program for the bloc up to the end of the 20th century. U.S. military circles, the article says, consider it necessary to explain that the "medium-range missiles for Europe" will be used not for defense, but for a "first strike against targets on the territory of Warsaw Pact countries." As we see, the "Euromissiles" are by no means a mere bugaboo in the political game, not simply a means of blackmail, but precisely the factor which, according to the transatlantic strategists' calculations, must guarantee them military superiority. In certain conditions they would probably like to take advantage of them.

How did it come about that the Pentagon and NATO were able to foist such a ruinous, anti-European decision on Western Europe? The Western press has written a great deal about how at the Brussels session the Americans "twisted the arms" of their partners and about the unseemly role that was played in this by the FRG ruling circles. All the same, in our view, that is not the main thing; more important is the "lie of the century," as sensible people in the West accurately call it--the myth of the "Soviet threat."

The campaign to fan that myth and use it to intimidate the West European population has taken on an unprecedented scale. It has been brandished as a bugaboo by not only Luns, Strauss and Mrs Thatcher, but also FRG Defense Minister Apel, who demanded that the "threat be canceled out with a threat." The minister and his lying thesis were actually supported even by Federal Chancellor Schmidt, who had previously said more than once for all to hear that he does not believe in the "threat from the East."

Whole pages of West European newspapers, radio stations and television screens were given over to those who were repeating the same familiar anti-Soviet motif in different voices. Suffice it to recall the BBC television program "The Bear at the Door," the PARIS-MATCH publication under the provocative headline "What Will Happen if the Russians Enter Paris?", the book "A History of the Third World War" by retired British General Hackett, and so forth. It is sufficient to recall these alone in order to imagine the oppressive atmosphere of anti-Sovietism and terror into which the Pentagon and NATO literally plunged the West European public.

Speculating shamelessly on the myth of the "Soviet threat," the Pentagon and NATO sought to convince West Europeans that the Warsaw Pact allegedly possesses military superiority over NATO and that Western Europe can eliminate this "superiority" merely by deploying the "Euromissiles." All this was a lie and a slander, and the figures used as arguments were falsified. According to the journal DER STERN, on the eve of the Brussels session "Washington deliberately exaggerated the East's potential in order to induce the necessary mood in its partners."

The "Soviet threat" did not and does not exist. According to the Hamburg Institute for Research into the Problems of Peace and the Policy of Security, it is not the Warsaw Pact countries, but NATO which possesses superiority in strategic arms. Scoville, a major American expert on arms control and former CIA deputy director, stated: "In the military sphere NATO has no need to adopt the decision to deploy cruise missiles and Pershing II missiles in Europe. All the same the decision has been adopted." The NATOites succeeded in deceiving and intimidating a section of the West European public.

Well, it is not a new method. In September 1939 the myth of the "Red peril" opened the doors of Europe for Hitler and World War II. In 1946 the same "argument," used by Churchill in his Fulton speech, opened the way to the "cold war." In December 1979 the same bluff helped secure the "Euromissiles" decision.

And the "lie of the century" continues to be cultivated to this day. Thus F. Ikle, former director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, stated with cynical frankness: "The massive psychological campaign on the theme of the 'Soviet threat' worked. In order to protect our interests in future, we must continue to cultivate this terror with all our might." How long will Western Europe go on allowing itself to be deceived, and then paying for that deception with blood and the lives of its sons and daughters?

"The adventurist 'doctrines' of the new preachers of the 'position of strength policy,'" Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed, speaking on 22 February, "are dangerous not only for an individual country or group of countries. They threaten the peace and security of all states and peoples. And to rebuff these sinister designs is the task of all who need and value peace." The fatal decision on "Euromissiles" has been adopted. But the struggle against their deployment in Western Europe, the struggle for the removal in practice of the Brussels decision, is beginning. And an important component in this struggle and the guarantee of its success is the exposure of the myth of the "Soviet threat."

ARMED FORCES, ARMS REDUCTION 'ULTIMATE GOAL' OF MBFR TALKS

LD041013 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent L. Stepanov dispatch: "Departing From the Goal"]

[Text] Vienna--The talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe are continuing in Vienna's Hofburg Palace. It has become known at a briefing that British Ambassador Jackson, the Western countries' representative, attempted to shift the blame for the protracted nature of these talks onto the socialist countries. The real reason for the impasse in Vienna is the NATO countries' constant evasion of an examination of the socialist countries' specific and constructive proposals, as well as their desire to secure unilateral advantages for NATO. At the previous session the Warsaw Pact countries submitted a new proposal regarding an exchange of updated data on the troop strengths of the states participating in the talks as of 1 January 1980. This is further evidence of the socialist countries' readiness to conduct the discussion in a constructive spirit. At the session Ambassador Jackson attempted to portray the Western proposals of 20 December 1979 as a "simplifying scheme" at the Vienna talks. However, these proposals are inadequate, the socialist countries' representative declared at the briefing, since they contain no guarantee that the other NATO countries will not increase their troops in central Europe before the second stage and only then undertake to reduce them. Precisely the reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe by all the participants, the socialist countries' representative emphasized, is the agreed goal of the Vienna talks.

SOVIET-AMERICAN MEETING ON BANNING CHEMICAL WEAPONS HELD

LD031604 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 3, TASS--A regular meeting of the delegations of the USSR and the USA at bilateral Soviet-American talks on banning chemical weapons was held here today.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD292330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

["International Situation--Questions and Answers" Program presented by Valeriy Kosovan, all-union radio commentator, with the participation of Oleg Nikolayevich Anichkin, international affairs journalist, and Anatoliy Krasikov, TASS political commentator]

[Excerpts] [Kosovan] The chief event of recent days has been the speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at his election meeting with electors in Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug. World opinion has described the speech as "a program of struggle for peace" and "an action program aimed at guaranteeing and deepening detente as one of the chief factors in contemporary international life." The wide and close attention to the speech by the Soviet state leader is explained by the fact that it gave answers to the most urgent questions of these days. This took the form of an analysis of the reasons for the sharp exacerbation of the international situation, prospects for insuring peace, the development of mutual understanding and the overcoming of hostility and alienation in relations between peoples. Many observers have noted the calm tone of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech. It is particularly stressed that the Soviet head of state and CPSU leader expressed firm resolve to continue the process of detente and bilateral and multilateral talks with the West. In this connection I should like once again to draw attention to the reasons for the deterioration in the international situation and call on international affairs journalist Oleg Nikolayevich Anichkin. Over to you, Oleg Nikolayevich!

U.S. Reaction to Afghanistan

[Anichkin] The policy of detente has become an obstacle for those who are primarily concerned with their claims to the so-called world leadership or, to be more accurate, world domination. Disregarding the strivings of the countries and peoples, the United States has divided the world into so-called zones of U.S. interests. We are actually talking about the hegemonistic schemes of the United States, which is striving to obtain military superiority and to undermine the balance of forces which has come about in the world, to the detriment of the security of the Soviet Union. Forgetting the lessons of Vietnam and deciding that the United States has already rid itself of the Vietnamese syndrome, Washington has again started to return to the old policy of acting from a position of force in order to, as they say there, defend U.S. vital interests--which in reality means pumping the natural riches out of the countries of the Near and Middle East and at the same time using their territories in its strategic plans.

[Kosovan] Oleg Nikolayevich, the United States is striving to justify its actions in the Near and Middle East by referring to the so-called Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

[Anichkin] Such references are quite groundless. The Soviet Union granted Afghanistan necessary aid to repulse outside aggression and did so on a lawful basis. It is perfectly clear that outside aggression is being committed against Afghanistan, which has been prepared and organized by the United States. An undeclared war is being waged by forces of counterrevolutionaries, terrorists and mercenaries, who are being armed and trained by U.S. military instructors. The form of aggression being carried out is precisely that which the United Nations defines as, and I quote, the dispatch by a state or on behalf of a state of armed bands, groups, regular forces or mercenaries which carry out acts involving armed forces against another state.

The key facts of the events that are taking place should be known to the U.S. leadership if, of course, it has not become a victim of its own propaganda campaign. The Soviet Union has stated, and this must be known in the White House, that Soviet military contingents will be withdrawn from Afghanistan as soon as the reasons for their presence disappear, and the Afghan Government considers that their presence is no longer necessary. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stated in his speech: We will be ready to start withdrawing our troops as soon as all forms of outside interference directed against the Government and people of Afghanistan cease. Let the United States, together with Afghanistan's neighbors, guarantee this, and then the necessity for Soviet military aid will disappear. However, the buildup of American interference in Afghan affairs thus far shows that the United States is doing everything possible to remove that possibility.

[Kosovan] Oleg Nikolayevich, Washington would appear to want to draw other countries into its actions against Afghanistan.

[Anichkin] Yes, Valeriy Ivanovich, that is so. At any rate the facts point to this. The United States is striving to draw the Muslim states into the undeclared war against Afghanistan and its European NATO allies into sanctions against the Soviet Union. Both are being frightened by the Soviet military threat. For the time being, as you see, they cannot think of anything else. The United States apparently fears a repetition of the complete American isolation that occurred during the American adventure in Vietnam. Replying to Washington's persistent attempts at persuading them to oppose the threat from the north, Kuwait said that it did not see nor does it anticipate that threat. Regarding the Afghan events, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwait's minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that it cannot lead the Muslim states away from the real problem, and for us Jerusalem, not Kabul, remains sacred.

[Kosovan] Oleg Nikolayevich, it is known that attempts were also made to put pressure on the West European countries.

[Anichkin] Yes, such attempts were made but they did not yield appreciable results. I think Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasikov will talk about this in more detail in the broadcast. All the same, as the Washington POST noted, West Europe has shown open nervousness as to whether the United States is trying to put the Western alliance on a path of increasing confrontation with the Soviet Union, while West Europe is inclined to find the means to renew relations between East and West on the basis of the policy of detente. This was clear in speeches by both FRG Chancellor Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing. The importance and necessity of holding talks about overcoming the existing difficulties was voiced.

[Kosovan] Oleg Nikolayevich, is there a change of attitude taking place among the U.S. public toward the Carter policy in connection with the events in Afghanistan?

[Anichkin] The following questions, are being asked everywhere, including in the United States, more and more frequently: Do the actions of the U.S. administration fit the situation which has come about in the Middle East, particularly in Afghanistan; are the national interests of the American people concerned; are not the Afghan events just a pretext for conducting a policy that has been devised beforehand? These questions apparently arise as a result of disenchantment or dissatisfaction with the administration's actions, which have not had the results which Washington had forecast. As a reply to these questions I would cite the considered remarks of two well known Americans. I am referring to Fulbright, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Kennan, an historian and former diplomat. In the present situation, Fulbright said, the United States has by its own actions eliminated any stimulus to continue a policy of restraint.

This began with attacks on the SALT II treaty, then there was the business about the Cuban crisis, followed by the playing of the Chinese card and the refusal to hold talks concerning medium-range missiles in Europe. I believe, the former senator said, that the United States has overreacted to this action in Afghanistan. In Kennan's opinion, the United States has created serious problems for itself in making itself dependent on Arab oil, with all the consequences arising out of that. If there has ever been an essential moment for displaying realism, caution and restraint in the U.S. leadership, it is now.

Indeed, people in many countries have seen from their experience the advantages of a calm and peaceful life and beneficial trade. They will not lightly renounce detente to accommodate U.S. plans for world domination.

[Kosovan] Thank you, Oleg Nikolayevich.

Developments in China

[Kosovan] Authors of many letters express an interest in the events in China and, in particular, in the reshuffle of cadres which has recently been taking place in Beijing's ruling spheres. What has caused this? Before answering this question, I would like to recall what configuration of forces has taken shape following Mao Zedong's death.

Relatively speaking, one can at present single out three main groupings there. They make up a peculiar coalition of leaders, united by the community of hegemonistic aspirations to turn China into a militaristic superpower and also by anti-socialist views in foreign policy. At the same time, participants of this coalition compete with each other in the struggle for power. The differences between them are not of a principled nature, inasmuch as they do not affect the general, strategic problems of internal and foreign policy. The causes of the strife are to be found in differing approaches to selecting concrete means and ways and methods to reach the goal that has been set and to strengthen the present regime in Beijing.

The group of rightwing pragmatists headed by Deng Xiaoping is attempting to set the dominant tone during the squabble for power within the Chinese leadership. Let me recall that he resumed political activities following his rehabilitation, in the summer 1977 and that, in fact, he is now the most important among the five deputy chairmen of the CCP Central Committee and the first deputy head of the Chinese Government. Deng Xiaoping now gets his supporters from a number of old, experienced figures who suffered during the time of the so-called Cultural Revolution. This group exerts a considerable influence on the organizational, party and propaganda apparatus, military organs and provincial party committees.

The rightwing pragmatists are of the opinion that Beijing should steer a more resolute course towards rapprochement with imperialism and also to use the possibilities of the Chinese bourgeoisie for an accelerated development of the national economy which should correspond to Beijing's hegemonistic designs. Deng Xiaoping and his supporters were the initiators of the criticism of Mao Zedong's mistakes. However, they do not intend to sever their links with Maoism, regarding it as necessary merely to modify its individual tenets in a spirit to their liking.

The second group is composed of old leaders who preserved their positions by going along with all the political capers of Mao Zedong. At present in China they are called Mao's yes-men. After his death they played an active part in getting rid of the gang of four which helped these veterans reach high posts.

Ye Jianying, the former defense minister who is now one of the deputy chairmen of the CCP Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, is regarded as the leader of this group.

The veterans do not share the avant-garde pretensions of Deng Xiaoping and his supporters, since they fear that a too thorough reappraisal of the role of Mao's personality may have adverse effects on their own position, as they were part of Mao Zedong's closest circle for many years.

Opposing the aspirations of the right-wing pragmatists to concentrate even more power in their hands, the veterans' group is trying to maintain the current balance of forces within the leadership, having put forward the slogan calling for insuring unity and stability in Beijing's upper echelons.

Those political figures who owe their promotion to the cultural revolution make up the third group. During that political campaign they seized the posts of the leaders who were purged. Those who were promoted by the Cultural Revolution are implicated in cooperation with the gang of four and in reprisals against numerous cadre workers who are now being rehabilitated at the insistence of Deng Xiaoping's group, which is interested in expanding its own ranks.

Of late, these rightwing pragmatists have been subjecting the representatives of the third group to increased pressure, gradually depriving them of their authority and influence within the upper political echelons.

However, those promoted through the Cultural Revolution enjoy quite considerable support from local young cadre workers, in the party-administrative apparatus and in the army.

That is why a substantial reshuffle among party and state cadres and also in the military apparatus has recently been carried out in the provinces. It was carried out under the guise of renunciation of the practice of combining party and administrative posts. However, in essence it boiled down to removing the supporters of the group of those who were promoted through the Cultural Revolution.

In the opinion of observers in Beijing, this new campaign of purging the cadres will also affect the upper echelon of power in China and will thereby sharpen the struggle for power there.

European Response to Carter

Our mailbag today includes a large bundle of letters whose authors refer to the question of the position being taken, in the present conditions of aggravation of the international situation, by the NATO allies of the United States. Moscow reserve officer Vladimir Alekseyevich (Pashishtov) writes: Carter wants to get reelected as president and in order to enlist the support of the military-industrial complex is stepping up tension. He goes on to say: But surely the leaders of the West European countries will not allow themselves to be drawn into American adventures or agree to be used as "extras" in a cheap overseas "show"? Similar questions are posed by Voronezh building engineer Sergey Ivanovich (Polekarpov), who writes: It would be interesting to know how far the United States has gone in putting pressure on its allies and what is the ultimate result of this pressure. Relations between the United States and other capitalist countries is the subject of other letters we have received from Leningrad, Riga, Dnepropetrovsk, Severomorsk, Yerevan and a number of other towns. To answer these letters we have invited TASS political observer Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasikov. Over to you, Anatoliy Andreyevich!

[Krasikov] The whole of this month has passed under the sign of heightened diplomatic activity in the West. Literally not a day has passed without statements from leaders of foreign policy departments, heads of government or political party leaders, setting out in detail their attitude to the latest international events. Then there were a number of bilateral and multilateral summit meetings between representatives of the Western powers. The results of these meetings were widely commented upon by all the world's press. In general, there can be nobody left today in the slightest doubt that the United States and its allies, primarily the West European ones, have in general diverged in their evaluation of the reasons for the present tension, of the nature of this tension and its possible consequences, and finally of the means by which it can and must be overcome. To put it briefly, it is worth quoting the conclusion formulated by the well-known American political figure Eugene McCarthy: Rather than frightening the Kremlin, Carter's policy has alarmed the U.S. allies in West Europe.

[Kosovan] Anatoliy Andreyevich, do you have in mind Carter's calls for curtailing cooperation with the Soviet Union?

[Krasikov] That is part of it. The U.S. President has already taken a number of unilateral measures in relation to us and concerning his country. He has imposed a prohibition, as we know, on grain deliveries under agreements previously concluded with us and has even banned the supply of phosphates to us. He has taken real steps to curtail economic and scientific-technical cooperation in the most diverse areas and he is continuing to seek where and how it might be possible to further damage the Soviet Union's interests.

It is in this tone also that one must view the attempts by the present administration in Washington to bring in West Europe, and to urge it to a similar policy--and also, of course, apparently Canada, Australia and Japan. So what can we say about this?

In the first place, from the point of view of the United State's own state interests, all of these measures have proved ineffective and even damaging. They have squeezed us to a certain extent, but not really very much. The Soviet Union has never depended on supplies from abroad and such supplies represent a minimal fraction of our national wealth. We have always made a point of supplying ourselves with everything we need from our own resources. But the American firms which had contracts with our country have suffered substantially. The grain farmers have also suffered. The chief thing is that the United States as a state has shown itself to be an unreliable trading partner; in the future, before concluding foreign-trade deals, we shall probably think twice before signing any new agreements with that country. So much for the first point.

In the second place, to be thoroughly frank, the senselessness of President Carter's measures is underlined by the fact that the Soviet Union can get everything, or practically everything, which the United States has refused it from other countries, including in fact from America's allies. To sum up, it can be said--and I believe this is well understood in the West--that the U.S. Government's anti-Soviet measures in the economic and scientific-technical fields are to a large extent just for show. Carter needs this for his election campaign. He has been called an indecisive and weak president, so here he is displaying firmness, showing his teeth. In essence though, he is powerless to do anything because the Soviet Union is not the sort of country to be talked to in the language of diktat.

[Kosovan] Anatoliy Andreyevich, can you imagine, if only theoretically, that all the capitalist countries might follow in the wake of American policy? What would happen then?

[Krasikov] Valeriy Ivanovich, I am quite prepared to imagine such a version of events even if on a purely theoretical basis. What would come of it? It would be a return to the 1950's, though with the substantial difference that at that time, as has now become known to us through the declassification of secret documents, the West was seriously discussing plans for an attack on our country. Now that the forces of the capitalist and the socialist states have definitively reached parity and vast stores of deadly weapons have been accumulated, we are--as Carter himself has admitted--doomed to coexistence. In other words, it is understood in the West that any military adventure against us would be synonymous with suicide for the United States and its allies. So [word indistinct] there remains for them apparently only one weapon: an economic blockade. But as I have already said, our economy is built on the basis of self-sufficiency. We can get by without trade with the West. But this, of course, would be the end of detente, the end of everything which has been created over long years by the persistent efforts of state leaders of many countries.

We realize that Carter apparently does not have the time at the moment to ponder this. He is preoccupied with the election campaign struggle and there is little interest for him in such trifles as the opinion of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world, the opinion of all those who saw in detente a ray of hope for a brighter and happier future. But these hundreds of millions of people do exist. There also exist realistically minded state leaders. Whether Carter likes it or not, by no means many of them have expressed readiness to watch passively as Brzezinski and a number of other advisers to the U.S. President prepare to carry out the funeral rites on detente.

[Kosovan] Anatoliy Andreyevich, you mentioned the Rome meeting of West European countries' foreign ministers. It seems to me that Washington wanted such a meeting to take place, with its participation too, in Bonn, and that it would have liked this meeting to declare a unified Western position in relation to the Soviet Union over the events in Afghanistan.

[Krasikov] Indeed, a Bonn meeting had been planned by the White House. But it did not take place. The inhabitants of the Old World have grown used to continual ups and downs in the political temperature across the ocean, particularly during election campaigns. This time, however, the Europeans' cup of patience apparently overflowed. The fact is that Washington announced that a conference of foreign ministers of Britain, the FRG, France and Italy and the U.S. secretary of state was to be held on 20 February in Bonn, though they announced this without having consulted the declared participants in advance. The West Europeans were naturally indignant. The French were the first to announce that they would not go to Bonn. Other refusals followed. So this latest anti-Soviet ploy by Washington collapsed shamefully.

[Kosovan] But why did Carter want the meeting to be held precisely on 20 February?

[Krasikov] Well, in my view, he led himself into a trap. Back in January the U.S. President issued the Soviet Union with a kind of ultimatum. He had said that the Soviet military contingent introduced into Afghanistan should be evacuated from there before 20 February, otherwise.... But what the "otherwise" would be Carter of course did not know. For this reason he decided to hold a meeting of foreign ministers of the leading Western powers on the day the ultimatum deadline expired. For what? Well, so as to declare collectively a return of the cold war. This, at least, is how we evaluated these intentions of his. But clearly Carter did not bank on how the reaction from the West itself to this ploy of his would actually turn out. In the first place, he forgot that he cannot issue orders to other countries, including his allies, on when and where they should hold what conferences.

In the second place, he failed to take account of the fact that the West European countries were far from disposed to break with the Soviet Union merely for the sake of his election campaign.

Here is what the French AFP agency wrote at the time, and I quote: In Paris it is felt that, in the present international situation which has been complicated because of the events in Afghanistan, a conference of foreign ministers similar to last year's Western summit in Guadeloupe would be inappropriate. It, and I am still quoting, would merely intensify the tendency toward pursuit of bloc politics and would not promote the easing of tension. On the other hand France intends to keep open the way to a dialog with Moscow.

An even clearer statement on this account was made by Maurice Couve de Murville, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly and former French prime minister, who said: If the risk of conflict exists today it has been engendered not by the events in Afghanistan but only by the fact that the Americans have decided to deploy Pershing missiles in West Europe. Such is the reaction of the French to Washington's initiative. FRG Foreign Minister Genscher stated: Any escalation of tension is dangerous. For his part, Herbert Wehner, chairman of the Social Democarts in the Bundestag, has called on the FRG Government to avoid ill-considered reactions to Moscow's policies and not to rush into precipitate actions.

Finally Schmidt, the West German chancellor, in an interview with West German television, conclusively dotted all the "i's." I quote: France and the FRG, he said, are united in the view that the present tension in the international situation should not increase further or be introduced into Europe.

Businessmen understand this remark by one of their leaders. As the Parisian newspaper LE MONDE wrote just the other day, the heads of West German, British, Italian and other companies have of late been making frequent visits to Moscow, and I quote from the newspaper, to assure the Russians of their intention to continue cooperation. A routine meeting of the Soviet-French joint standing commission on scientific-technical and economic cooperation was held this month in the capital of the Soviet Union.

[Kosovan] In other words, life goes on.

[Krasikov] Yes, it goes on, and precisely for that reason Washington has had to make midcourse corrections in its plans and actions. Carter packed Secretary of State Vance off to Europe, no longer so much to try once again to knock together an anti-Soviet front, as much as somehow, apparently, to paper over the cracks created by American policy in the Western camp itself.

Here, for example, is an interesting admission by the London DAILY TELEGRAPH. Britain, like the other West European countries, is becoming increasingly irritated by the hasty implementation of American initiatives without any consultation or advice with the allies. If the British newspaper, which has never shown any particular sympathy toward the Soviet Union, has lost its patience then one can imagine how other countries in West Europe are reacting to Washington's pressure.

[Kosovan] Incidentally, Washington is also annoyed. It is unhappy about the fact the West Europeans do not support all the extremes of its policy.

[Krasikov] Yes, that annoyance was clear during Vance's visit to Europe. Our press has already reported the tactlessness of the statement by Hartman, the U.S. ambassador in Paris. On the day that the U.S. secretary of state arrived on the banks of the Seine, the American ambassador said on one of his public speeches that the position of the West European states "smacks of neutralist stupidity." Those were his words.

Commenting on that statement, an observer for the American NBC television company explained that West Germany, Italy and particularly France had supposedly not justified Washington's hopes. The Americans are annoyed and maintain that some Europeans do not know what they want, noted the newspaper LES ECHOS, an organ of France's business circles, in this connection. It then added that in actual fact most Europeans at least know what they do not want. They do not want Washington to dictate a line of conduct to them which would all too easily lead to the gains of detente being sacrificed for its policy. This conclusion by the French newspaper, it seems to me, sums up propably the essence of the differences between the present leaders of the United States and the leaders of the other capitalist countries, primarily West Europe. We are being convinced again and again that the policy of detente has sunk deep roots and as before enjoys broad support throughout the world.

[Kosovan] Thank you very much, Anatoliy Andreyevich.

SOVIET UN ENVOY CONDEMNS ISRAELI POLICY ON PALESTINIANS

LD271049 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 27 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] New York, February 27, TASS--The aim of Israel's policy in occupied Arab lands is to perpetuate the results of its aggression.

At a meeting of the Security Council underway here, it is stressed that Israel's actions are a source of constant threat to peace and stability in the Middle East. The Security Council was convened on the demand of a group of Islamic countries to discuss the situation in occupied Arab lands.

Soviet Representative M.A. Kharlamov noted that, as facts show, the Camp David agreements and the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty concluded with the active participation of the United States serve merely as a cover for Israel's policy of expansion and aggression against the Palestinian people, against neighbouring Arab countries. As to the talks on the so-called "Administrative autonomy for the Palestinians", it is an overt attempt not to allow the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to perpetuate the occupation of Arab lands. Israel, the Soviet representative continued, can conduct this policy with impunity and can afford to ignore the opinion of the international community only for the reason that the United States' Government is arming Israel with the latest and most intricate weapons and is also constantly blocking the adoption of effective decisions by the Security Council.

The Soviet Union condemns resolutely the policy and practice of the Israeli occupation authorities with regard to the Palestinians and Syrians of the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza Sector, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. We are against whole-sale reprisals conducted by the Israeli Government, against the suppression of freedom, against oppression and racial discrimination. We are deeply convinced that an end must be put to these unlawful actions and the sooner the better it will be for the cause of peace and peaceful existence of Israel itself.

It was with indignation that the delegates heard a speech by Israeli representative Yehuda Blum. He did not even mention the item on the agenda, the situation in the occupied territories, but attacked almost all participants in the discussion. A sharp rebuttal to the Israeli delegate was made by representatives of Syria, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organization and other delegates. The discussion showed that Israel and its ally, the United States, are in isolation in the international community

The meeting of the security council continues.

HAMBURG CSCE SCIENTIFIC FORUM CONCLUDES WORK

LD031300 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hambrug, March 3, TASS--An international scientific forum, convened in accordance with the decision of the European Security and Cooperation Conference, came to an end here today. It was attended by over 400 scientific workers from 35 countries, participants of the all European conference, a Soviet delegation, headed by academician Nikolay Blokhin, president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, among them.

The participants in the forum discussed questions of cooperation in such major fields as the search for alternative energy sources, cardiology, oncology, protection of the environment, urban development and food production.

Although certain participants tried to steer the forum away from the tasks facing it, the meeting adopted a final document in which scientists favoured the continuation of the many-sided process of detente and scientific contacts in the Helsinki spirit.

EAST-WEST ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEETING OPENS IN MOSCOW

LD261210 Moscow TASS in English 1144 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 26, TASS--A conference on cooperation of East-West business circles in the sphere of the environmental protection was opened here today. It is attended by scientists and specialists from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia, and by representatives of firms from the United States, Canada, Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Boris Borisov, the chairman of the Presidium of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR, and Carl-Henrik Winquist, the secretary general of the International Chamber of Commerce, emphasized that their meeting was being held in conformity with the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. They expressed their firm confidence that the results of the conference would help developing commercial and economic, scientific, technical and industrial cooperation between the East and the West.

The three-day conference will discuss problems related to the prevention of air, water and soil pollution, will consider the prospects of creating a technology in chemical, pulp and paper industry, in nonferrous and ferrous metallurgy and in power engineering with small or no waste and also the possibility of cooperation between socialist and capitalist countries in environmental protection.

STUDIO NINE CONDEMNATION OF COLD WAR, INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES

LD021237 Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The precepts for international relations have been examined in a discussion in the Studio Nine series, presented on Soviet national television. Taking part were Dr Valentin Falin, first deputy chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, and Dr Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Soviet Institute for U.S. and Canada under the USSR Academy of Sciences. The discussion was led by Prof Valentin Zorin, a political observer of Soviet television.

The participants in the discussion noted that the international situation has been aggravated lately by the turn in U.S. foreign policy. This turn had been in the making for several years, Dr Falin noted, and he cited facts that bear this out. Already in 1978 at the NATO Council's session in Washington the United States imposed on its allies a line of incessant increases of military spending. An average 3 percent growth a year was announced, and according to the decisions taken at that session, this is to be a real increase unaffected by inflation, an increase applying way up to the end of the 1980's and even further, regardless of how the international situation develops, regardless of disarmament talks and of relations between the West and East.

This is an apparent revision of the basic principles and clauses that the American side had supported and even signed, a revision made despite the convincingly expressed opinion that the level of military confrontation has to be lowered. It is necessary to work hard to prevent countries from getting involved in a new and spiralling arms race and to place some restrictions so as to prevent a qualitative and quantitative increase in arms. There's more than enough as it is.

The U.S. version that everything started in connection with and after the events in Afghanistan was taken to task by Dr Georgiy Arbatov. Actually, he pointed out, the U.S. administration launched and shaped its new line at all basic levels well before the events in Afghanistan, he pointed out.

Dr Falin, for his part, revealed the baselessness of Western assertions that the USSR acted in Afghanistan without any grounds. It's not words that count, he said, but facts, and the facts bear out that interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs had assumed such forms and proportions that threatened the existence of the Afghan state, its sovereignty and its independence. There are many facts showing how mercenaries are being trained in Pakistan at 50 points and at 20 special bases and how they are then sent into Afghanistan. There are facts showing that mercenaires are also being prepared on Chinese territory. According to some reports about 40,000 terrorists, saboteurs and other agents have been or are being trained in China for activities in Afghanistan.

Dr Falin pointed to a striking coincidence. Not so long ago Mr Carter sent the Soviet Union an ultimatum demanding the withdrawal by 20 February of the Soviet contingents sent to Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan leadership. Twenty February was the ultimatum's deadline and when that deadline expired on 21 February disorders were organized in Kabul. Shops and warehouses were put on fire, attempts were made to blow up the bakery factory and the power station. It is significant, Dr Falin said, just what the saboteurs and terrorists regarded as their targets in Kabul. The aim was to disrupt supplies, cause dissatisfaction among the inhabitants and try to show to the Afghans and to the world that the situation in Afghanistan is allegedly unstable and that Babrak Karmal's government was not in control of the situation.

Meanwhile, the Voice of America spread 20 false reports alleging that there's a general strike, a general uprising and that Soviet troops are brutally suppressing it, and so on and so forth.

Actually, the Soviet troops took no part whatsoever in the government's measures to handle the situation. Order was restored in Kabul by government troops, by the security service and the militia, with the population taking a most active part in the measures because people realized that the disruptive actions had been aimed against the population. It appeared that the instigators of disorders included Americans and a group of Pakistani saboteurs sent into Kabul. Several hundred Afghans were arrested but they were not inhabitants of Kabul, they were people who had secretly penetrated into the city to stage these disorders.

So how can President Carter, in the light of these and many other facts, claim that the United States is not undertaking anything against Afghanistan, Dr Falin asked?

The leader of the discussion, Valentin Zorin, noted that it's apparent the turn in Washington's policy was being shaped over a more or less lengthy period of time, but it was linked with certain in-depth reasons. So what are these reasons, he asked? What led Washington to that turn of its policy?

There are actually two kinds of reasons in this case, Dr Arbatov observed, one kind is linked with the sentiments in the United States' ruling class a a whole, with the change in the attitude of America's ruling class and ruling circles regarding foreign policy issues. The second kind of reasons is connected with the situation in which it was possible to implement a rapid U-turn in those positions and sentiments to change America's foreign policy line. In point of fact, an entire epoch had to be thrown overboard with all its policy targets, customs and ways. I mean, the period right after the Second World War, when American indeed found itself in an exceptional position. Economically, she was the only country that emerged stronger from the war, whereas all the rivals were weakened. The United States sustained almost no losses, had no destruction at all. Military, it emerged with a monopoly on the atom bomb, a short-lived monopoly, but still [as heard], and it was technologically superior in many kinds of weapons, Georgiy Arbatov observed.

By and large, one had the impression that America could buy anyone and anything, and even if it failed to do so, then intimidate and throw a scare, or even destroy. All this came about by dint of some transient and short-term historical developments, unique developments. But that generated an illusion. For many Americans it was all in the scheme of things and presaged the fulfillment of the long awaited American dream.

[Word indistinct] Georgiy Arbatov said the following: From the very start of detente, from its initial steps, there were counteracting forces in the United States, very potent forces, above all the military-industrial complex, and the hangovers of the cold war were still very much alive. Nevertheless, positive trends got the upper hand in the early seventies, but in the latter half of the seventies the situation got worse. Why did this come to be?

I think, Georgiy Arbatov remarked, a segment of the ruling circles, that segment which from the very outset was against detente, made an apt use of certain conditions.

The point is the powers that be put up with the new trends and developments against the grain. First, this was the loss of military superiority. For America, which in the 200 years of its existence developed a sense of absolute immunity against attack, being protected as she was by two oceans, that sense of immunity was later augmented by a superiority complex. Then, all of a sudden, that superiority vanishes and gives way to parity, an equivalence with the Soviet Union. That's hard to put up with. So the gut reaction, typical of imperialism in general, was to put it all down to lack of military clout and insufficient resolve in using it, Georgiy Arbatov continued. This was being exploited and worked a good deal, although obviously that was barking up the wrong tree. All the setbacks and flops spring from that imperialist policy with its stake on force, with its abuse of force. This was proved in Vietnam in the sixties and seventies and later in Iran.

Now, speaking of Iran, did the shah's opponents have a preponderance at the moment of the revolution? Still the shah regime was toppled, in the same way as the regime of South Vietnam. Those corrupt regimes, rotten to the core, could not endure forever; given all the backing of [words indistinct].

That kind of reaction applies now to the worsening of the fuel problem, first and foremost the problem of oil, Georgiy Arbatov said.

You are listening to a summary of the roundtable discussion broadcast on Moscow television and involving topnotch foreign policy experts Valentin Falin, a senior Communist Party Central Committee official; Georgiy Arbatov, the director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences Institute for U.S. and Canada Studies; and Prof Valentin Zorin, a political observer of Soviet television. Valentin Zorin was the moderator on the program.

The discussion was continued by Dr Valentin Falin, who made this point. Equality and (?live) security, he said, is the prime conditions of solving all complex issues with the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States. Well, equality is good it's being argued. All should be equal, with the Americans more than others. Sure, a country that is getting 60 percent of its oil from overseas, that country happens to be in a bad fix, not because there are no deposits at home. The Americans believe they will tap their domestic deposits somewhat later, after deposits abroad are exhausted, and this means that the United States would continue to press ahead for ever-more rights and privileges for a special access to energy sources. And President Carter himself made it clear on 12 December that the United States could go even as far as dictating prices if those prices were not acceptable for the United States, and that could prod it to intervene with military force.

Indeed, Dr Valentin Falin went on to say, the economic influence of the United States in the world has weakened. The tottering American dollar is the most typical case in point. In a reference to the so-called Chinese card, Valentin Falin said attempts to play the Chinese card figure high in the deliberations of American politicians, as do the long-term objectives for the 1980's and possibly even beyond that period, and this is true of the conclusions made by President Carter and his closest associates.

Even when Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping visited the United States last year, some Americans observed who was playing who, whose card was being played. So far there's one coincidence, one obvious common denominator. Both Washington and Beijing are acting not only from the positions of anti-Sovietism but also from the positions of anticommunism, and the United States, when characterizing China as its closest ally or at least the (?side with which) it has common interests in Asia, never touches on China's communist path and on the Chinese Communist Party. I don't want to say more than I have said about this but all that is highly indicative. The Sino-American rapprochement and cooperation has already produced one war. A year ago, right after Deng's visit to the United States, China perpetrated aggression against Vietnam. Perhaps perked up by American support, which already transcends the forms of more political support, China will ask and get more, for instance, American-made military hardware and technology, or related technology, which could be used in the military field. Presumably this would prompt China to more adventures. Who knows? Be it as it may, Valentin Falin remarked, there are hotbeds in Asia. That's a fact, and the United States and China are both involved.

When the shah's throne started tottering in Iran, China rubbed in to help. In general, Beijing and Washington were working hand in glove in those times. What should be done to keep the shah in the saddle? The contacts spread to other issues, in the first place, Afghanistan. What steps were to be taken to counteract the April revolution of 1978? So the beginnings of this cooperation date back to 1978. Cooperation, I don't want to use the word alliance, Valentin Falin observed. At any rate, that alliance aggravated the situation in the Near East. I am convinced, he said, that China is cooperating with the United States on a temporary basis while it, China, stands to gain.

Turning to Europe, Valentin Falin remarked that America's allies in NATO have become involved in the arms race due to the NATO decisions of May 1978 and December 1979. But the NATO countries have gained little in terms of security and this also applies to the Americans. Their social, political and economic problems remain where they were. On the other hand, Western Europe has gained a lot from detente. If that policy is impaired this would have a dire impact on Western Europe, too. It would lose many favorable opportunities, including the benefits of economic cooperation with the socialist countries. The future will show whether the West European countries will display political acumen and wisdom, as well as courage, and work against the dangerous tendencies threatening to bury detente.

We are not going to put the United States and its West European allies on the collision course. We do not want to drive a wedge between them. Ultimately, we believe long-term interests will prevail. The only alternative, especially in Europe, is peaceful coexistence and peaceful cooperation. There's no other way out, Valentin Falin stressed. However, this doesn't mean that one could sit on one's oars and wait. The main thing is not to lose time and put in active efforts to rebuff deleterious tendencies which threaten peace.

If we take a look at U.S. policy in (?turns) to be self-defeating in the final count. Take Vietnam, Iran and Nicaragua. But the United States doesn't learn from this and plants other mines elsewhere, which will sooner or later blow up and damage the United States.

Georgiy Arbatov expressed the hope that the American nation could not be held on the rack for an indefinite period of time. Wisdom and sober approach should ultimately prevail.

In conclusion, Georgiy Arbatov referred to the latest speech by President Brezhnev, who reaffirmed the Soviet Union's major policy course in accordance with the peace program advanced at the 24th and 25th congresses of the Soviet Communist Party. The Soviet Union would continue to work for peace and less tension, but at the same time would firmly rebuff aggression. In this it is supported by the socialist countries and also by the developing countries.

RACHKOV: TRADING PROFIT MAIN U.S. INTEREST IN GULF OIL

LD291545 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[B. Rachkov article: "On the Scent of Oil"]

[Text] The Pentagon is continuing to build up the biggest armada of American naval forces since World War II. It has been drawn up to the Persian Gulf region and is equipped with tactical and strategic nuclear weapons. Washington itself cites the need to free the American hostages in Iran as the official explanation for this.

However, calls for a strong military grouping to be sent there began to be heard in the United States long before the Iranian students seized the staff of the American Embassy in Tehran. The shah had scarcely fled from the rebelling people before Senator H. Jackson, that well-known representative of the American military-industrial complex, urged the White House to think up something quickly. "It is time to stop repeating the silly cliche that we cannot be a world policeman," he declared. And then in the middle of last year U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff D. Jones, Senator G. Hart and other high-ranking people made much of the idea of forming a so-called "quick reaction corps" of 110,000 men for operational use "in the Persian Gulf region or in other hot spots outside NATO's sphere." Senator G. Hart formulated the purpose of this venture as follows: "to use armed forces for the purpose of maintaining the flow of oil."

In principle no one has ever threatened the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region. Oil exports are vital to the countries of this zone. The point is that the peoples' liberation movement is increasingly infringing imperialism's opportunities to exploit the oil resources of young states on terms unilaterally advantageous to itself.

Seven oil-producing states adjoin the Persian Gulf--Iraq, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Their land contains 50 billion tons of "black gold," which is two-thirds of all known oil resources in the nonsocialist world. Some 1 billion tons of oil are produced there annually, and it goes chiefly to the industrially developed capitalist countries. In particular, its share of total Japanese oil consumption stands at almost 80 percent, and it is more than one-half for West European countries. From the viewpoint of internal requirements the significance of this oil to the United States is not so great--it makes up only one-ninth of total oil consumption in the country. But the natural riches of this region pay American monopolies and banks huge dividends.

Despite the fact that the main foreign oil concessions in developing countries have been nationalized--that is, oil production has passed under national control--its transportation to other countries and the refining and sale of petroleum products still remain in the hands of chiefly American and partly Anglo-Dutch monopolies. Western experts believe that outside the production sphere U.S. monopolies control 50-60 percent of the modern "oil business." American monopolies make colossal profits by buying up oil from oil-rich developing states and reselling petroleum products to more than 100 countries.

According to figures in the bulletin SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the sum total of the "tribute" gathered by the American "oil business" in 1973-1979 from the whole capitalist world and sent home to the mother country exceeded $40 billion. [paragraph continues]

What proportion of these profits was made directly on oil from the Persian Gulf region? The bulletin keeps quiet on this score. But, taking into account the fact that it accounts for approximately two-thirds of all American oil monopolies' operations abroad, it is possible to assert with great reliability that the region's oil makes U.S. monopoly capital at least $4 billion net profit a year.

But that is far from everything. It is precisely in the Persian Gulf region that one finds those several monarchical oil-producing states whose rulers prefer to keep their oil revenues as far as possible from their peoples by placing national funds practically forever at the disposal of Western, chiefly American, banks and corporations at a fixed rate of interest. Investment secrecy prevents experts from estimating the total of "petrodollars" invested in the United States. But some information is made public from time to time. Thus, U.S. President J. Carter has stated that the total of these investments in the United States is approximately $60 billion. Since then, foreign observers believe, this figure has approached and perhaps even exceeded $100 billion.

Thus, taking into account the net profits transferred to the United States by American monopolies, the sum total of financial assets created out of Persian Gulf oil and placed at the disposal of U.S. imperialism over the past 7 years reaches approximately $120-130 billion.

But for such a big "dollar injection," the U.S. economy would have been hit even harder by such troubles as the energy crisis, the weakening of the dollar's positions on world currency markets, the slowing down of the labor productivity growth rate and the fall in the competitiveness of American goods on foreign markets. The "oil fix" being taken by American imperialism in the Persian Gulf region has become the strongest of the neocolonial medicines used by U.S. big capital to maintain its competitiveness on foreign markets, to keep the dollar in its role as the leading world currency and to patch over holes in its facade.

Is it any wonder that real steps to create an American mailed fist poised over the Persian Gulf began to be taken immediately after the fall of the shah's regime, which faithfully protected U.S. "oil interests" there and managed, incidentally, to transfer to the West, chiefly to the United States, approximately 30 billion Iranian private and state "petrodollars." And when Tehran, setting an example to the peoples of neighboring oil-producing states, demanded most resolutely that Washington not only extradite the shah but also return the riches which he had plundered, the Pentagon moved up the regular naval forces deployed nearby. If it had not been for the pretext of the hostages, the colonialists would have taken advantage of any other grounds.

In an attempt to justify its aggressive adventurist policy Washington is making false allegations of some kind of "Soviet threat" to oil sources in the Middle East. Comrade L. I. Brezhnev dealt a good rebuff to the liars in his reply to one of the PRAVDA correspondent's questions 13 January 1980, when he declared:

"The policy and mentality of colonialists are alien to us. We do not covet others' lands or hanker after others' riches. It is colonialists who are drawn to the scent of oil."

CONFIDENCE IN SUMMER OLYMPIC SUCCESS; U.S. STANCE HIT

ID291453 Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 19 Feb 80 p 4 ID

[Article by Prof K. Kulinkovich, vice president of the International Committee of the History of Sport: "Aggressive Urge; Athletics and Related Topics"]

[Text] In the world press, U.S. President J. Carter's "ideas", aimed at wrecking international detente and at a return to the times of the cold war, are increasingly frequently being called senseless. Nor is there any other word to describe the "idea" of boycotting the 22d Olympic Games. If we are to believe the American magazine NEWSWEEK, it was in no way engendered by a commonsense policy. The magazine relates how Carter invited U.S. Ambassador Thomas J. Watson, who had been recalled from Moscow, to an unofficial conversation. "Tom," the President said, "I want to find out what kind of punishment (?!) will have the biggest effect on the Soviets--not to give the go-ahead to the Olympic games or to introduce trade sanctions?" "There is no question," Watson replied without hesitation, "the Olympic games." In the evening, as the magazine confirms, Carter made this idea public.

The attempt by J. Carter and his closest kindred spirits to destroy what mankind prides and values--the festival of strength, skill and beauty, the festival of peace, friendship and mutual understanding--arouses indignation both in athletic and in broader public circles of various countries. It is a shame of course that the transatlantic politicians are not very well versed in the sphere of history. Otherwise they would know that the raving Hitler in his time also tried to make use of the Olympic games in the interests of political blackmail, in the attempt to dictate his psychopathic will to the world. It is worthwhile recalling that this prompted the consolidation of progressive forces. Particularly active in waging the struggle against fascism and war and against interference by Hitlers administration in the holding of the 1935 Olympics in Berlin, were workers' and sports organizations of the United States, France, Spain and Czechoslovakia. The International Conference of the Red Sports International (1933), the Paris Sports Rally (1934) and a number of measures pursued by the "International Committee for the Defense of Olympic Ideal" have become firmly inscribed in the history of this struggle. American sportsmen were among those who protested sharply at that time against the racist propaganda, against using the Olympic games in the interests of Hitler's policy.

Twenty years later the aggressive attack by Anglo-French imperialists on Egypt and the closing of the Suez Canal jeopardized the possibility of holding the 1956 16th Olympic Games in Melbourne. Again the forces of peace and progress proved stronger. Overcoming tremendous difficulties when war was being kindled, more than 3,500 emissaries from sports organizations of 68 countries arrived in faraway Australia. According to the unanimous opinion of the games' participants, an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding reigned in Melbourne and Olympic ideal once again triumphed.

Over 7,000 participants in the 20th Olympic Games, tens of thousands of tourists and millions of television viewers remember well how unbridled reactionaries tried to break up this festival of sport and friendship too. Even the bloodshed in Munich did not shake the will of the games' participants. This attack by reaction led to the further strengthening of the Olympic movement.

The whole history of the modern Olympic movement is the history of the struggle of progressive forces against reaction. The examples quoted do not exhaust the picture of this struggle, they merely show most clearly that the forces which stand for the noble ideas of using sport in the interests of peace, friendship and mutual understanding invariably prevail in this struggle.

It is no mere chance that the present aggressive urge of U.S. politicians is provoking indignation in the United States itself. The U.S. representative in the International Olympic Committee, J. Roosevelt, expressed sharp disagreement with the actions of the administration. Maintaining solidarity with her are the National Olympic Committee and a number of distinguished coaches and sportsmen. Even the Washington POST newspaper was forced to admit that "Carter's warning that the United States might not take part in the 1980 Olympics provoked a negative response on the part of sportsmen and the national committee alike". The world record holder in sprint events, H. Glance, expressing athlete's opinion, said: "If U.S. athletes cannot take part in the Olympics, this will be a most cruel disappointment for them." The fact that U.S. athletes resolutely condemn the boycott of the 22d Olympic Games was also proved by the survey held among them.

International sports organizations have taken up a firm stance of rebuff to the U.S. administration. Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, categorically rejected Carter's absurd pretensions. He noted that "athletes and not states take part in the Olympic games, and national Olympic committees must preserve their autonomy and the possibility of resisting any pressure exerted on them." The president of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport, R. Ruiz, supported the stance of the president of the International Olympic Committee. He declared: "The plan to boycott the Moscow Olympics is a flagrant breach of the UN Charter and of the decisions of the 20th UNESCO General Conference and an encroachment on the basic principles of modern sport." The chairman of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, (A. Ordia) announced that African sportsmen will without doubt attend the Olympic games in Moscow. The provocative campaign by the U.S. administration has aroused condemnation from a number of international sports federations. The conference which took place between leaders of the national Olympic committees of the FRG, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland, Spain and Denmark was in favor of participation in the Moscow Olympics and stressed that only the national Olympic committees can resolve this issue.

Finally the 82d session of the International Olympic Committee, which took place in Lake Placid, adopted the unanimous decision that the 22d Olympic games are to take place in Moscow as planned.

Thus, it can already be said that the "idea" of boycotting the 22d Olympic games has failed. But Carter raves on and pursues new moves. He threatened not to give the promised $16 million of federal aid for the development of sports, to deprive Los Angeles of government support for running the 1984 Olympic games. He sent personal messages to the heads of a hundred or so states requesting their support for his intended boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Carter sent the popular professional boxer Mohammed Ali as his personal emissary by special airplane to Africa. The aim of this mission was to enlist the African countries into the boycott of the 1980 Olympics.

It is true that it would have been more sensible to direct such irrepressible energy and the substantial resources, toward more noble causes. Reading and thinking over the numerous press reports, one asks oneself the question again and again: What is the reason for such a frenzied attack on the Olympic games? And it seems that the fact that the United States has become a third-rate power in the Olympic arena is playing by no means the least important role in this. Many senators, congressmen and other politicians mention the fact that in the election struggle Carter wishes to appear "strong." Well, in Moscow yet another defeat is awaiting him. It is appropriate in this connection to recall that after the 21st Olympic Games, under pressure from disappointed public opinion, Carter was forced to set up a special commission. This commission was charged with the task of studying the record [programma] of acute deterioration in the state of American athletics. The bulky report (600 pages) ended with an admission of the fact that the prestige of American athletics on the international arena has been thoroughly shaken and that this trend will grow worse if urgent steps are not taken. The report analyzes with bitter disappointment the results which the Montreal Olympics produced for American athletic prestige. The GDR team at the 21st Olympic games forced the American team back into third position, though in the year of the U.S. bicentenary it had been set the task of gaining victory at all costs. Many high-ranking officials of the Washington administration on the eve of the Montreal Olympics, noisily pontificated that a sporting triumph is no less an effective method of raising the nation's spirits than a victory on the field of battle. They had no success in raising the "nation's spirits," but many press organs considered the defeat as a "national disgrace."

It is obvious that this perspective on the eve of the 1980 elections played a determining role in Carter's sudden attacks on the 1980 Olympics. But how many there have been of them already!... Soviet sports organizations, and indeed all progressive sports organizations can be said to have developed a firm immunity. It can be said with firm confidence that the 22d Olympic Games will not only take place but will also make a very considerable contribution to the development of the Olympic movement and to strengthening the cause of peace.

PAPER CRITICIZES U.S. AFGHAN POLICY CALLING 'BLACK WHITE'

LD031345 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 80 p 9 LD

[Dispatch from LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Iona Andronov under the rubric "New York Speaking": "The State Department Is Calling Black White"]

[Text] Since last Friday L.I. Brezhnev's speech to the voters of the Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug has dominated the most topical international events here. The main news item in the newspapers has been Comrade Brezhnev's statement that he is willing to start withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan on the condition that the United States and Afghanistan's neighbors call a complete halt to all forms of external interference aimed against the Afghan people and their government.

This statement has provoked a variety of responses: from public approval to attempts by the Washington authorities to mislead the ordinary American with spurious fabrications.

A typical example of this was the full column which appeared in the capital's the Washington POST. In the center of the column appeared a photograph of L.I. Brezhnev captioned: "Leonid Brezhnev seeks to halt interference." Leonid Ilich's remarks on the intervention against Afghanistan from Pakistani territory were quoted loosely and extremely tersely. Alongside was printed an enormous photograph taken in Kabul, showing a Soviet armored carrier and, standing next to it, three burly soldiers surrounded by a group of Afghan children. The text of the article contained a scary State Department report alleging that Soviet troops in Kabul "yesterday fired over the heads of demonstrating Afghan crowds." Are we to take it that these children were also in danger? But the day after, quite shamelessly contradicting itself, the Washington POST stated more correctly that Soviet troops "were not involved in any of the clashes." And it turned out that the picture with the children in it was taken 3 weeks previously and depicted a very peaceful scene: Kabul children eagerly eating candy with our soldiers.

Commenting on L.I. Brezhnev's speech, the U.S. State Department insists on calling black white: "We do not believe that there is any outside interference in Afghanistan to justify the presence of Soviet military forces." When the news broke last Saturday that CIA agent Robert Lee had been arrested in Kabul the State Department at first also declined to answer journalists' questions, saying "we have no information about any such person in Afghanistan." Later they were forced to admit that they knew perfectly well who Robert Lee is and why he was infiltrated into Afghan territory.

At the same time, as observer James Reston confirms, a number of sober-minded Washington analysts are recommending that all aspects of L.I. Brezhnev's Moscow speech be studied so as to frame a policy which would reduce the dangerous tension in the Persian Gulf. But influential groups of hardliners argue that the U.S. President's election campaign stands to gain far more from artificially stirring up confrontation with Moscow. Obviously counting on riding the crest of the militarist hysteria to gain a lead in the primaries which are just beginning, J. Carter himself still inclines to this view.

Notwithstanding the results of the voting in the state of New Hampshire on 26 February, an analysis of the current mood carried out by Washington journalist Haines Johnson revealed the following picture:

"The most significant feature of the voters' behavior today is that despite the tirades about a 'threat to peace' and so forth people simply don't believe the President. What is more, they consider the President's expatiations to be just political rhetoric. People everywhere are saying that his speeches are 'over the top.'"

Objections are being leveled at the White House increasingly actively and loudly by distinguished representatives of the U.S. intelligentsia. Professor Howard Parsons of Bridgeport University reminded us of the Soviet people's traditional peace-loving nature and urged: "For our own sake, let us return to detente." Arms limitation expert Paul Warnke accused President Carter of refusing to listen to L.I. Brezhnev's proposals. Some 650 doctors at a 2-day symposium at Harvard University expressed support for "improving the international atmosphere."

The only discordant note struck has been the hawkish voice of "father of the hydrogen bomb" Edward Teller. Throughout February both verbally and in the press he urged "counteraction" against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and hysterically frightened Americans with talk of "the march of Russian tanks" to the shores of the Persian Gulf and even to the oilfields of the Arabian Peninsula. In the end, a member of the audience in a UCLA lecture hall ran up to Teller and shoved a creampie in his face....

BABAKHANOV QUESTIONS CARTER'S 'SINCERITY' TOWARD ISLAM

LD281400 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Here is a talk by the chairman of the Religious Board of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Mufti Ziyautdin Babakhanov, commenting on a recent speech made by President Carter at a meeting with representatives of university departments engaged in Islam studies: [brief recording in vernacular, fading to announcer-read report]

Ziyautdin Babakhanov addresses listeners with the traditional Muslim greeting. He says the Prophet taught that sincerity is one the great value of Islam and one of man's (?main merits). Now can you call President Carter's speech sincere? Judge for yourself.

The U.S. President paid lip service to friendly feelings towards the Islam world, but the latter knows well that for many years the United States has been supporting Israeli aggressors with arms and money. Thousands of Muslims have died at the hands of those aggressors and a whole Muslim nation--Palestinians--are deprived of a homeland due to Israel and its American patrons.

President Carter speaks about respect to Islam. But when the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem was burned down, none of the U.S. Administration, including the President, said a word in defense of that holy place cherished by each faithful Muslim. The President said further about respect for national sovereignty of Muslim states and progressive movements of Islam followers (sentence as heard). But how does it tally with the sending of big U.S. navy formations to the shores of revolutionary Iran under the pretext of rescuing a group of captured diplomats? The U.S. President further alleged that the Soviet Union has been waging a war in a Muslim country. Is the President sincere?

He certainly knows that there is no such war. Leonid Brezhnev clearly stated that the Soviet Union acted in full conformity with a Soviet-Afghan treaty of friendship. Three consecutive Afghan governments appealed to the Soviet Union with the request for help to repel a counterrevolutionary incursion from outside.

Does the U.S. President know about it? Of course he does, just like the fact that nobody is persecuting Muslims in Afghanistan, although the White House is speculating on defending Islam.

The council [words indistinct] in Afghanistan daily receives numerous letters and telegrams in which ordinary Muslims express support to the people's government. The White House knows about this too and by distorting the events in Afghanistan, Washington is trying to find a pretext for spreading its expansion in Asia. Mufti Babakhanov reminded [as heard] the sacred words of the Koran that all Muslims must live in peace and friendship and those who sow enmity and discord are acting contrary to Allah's behests.

CONCLUSION OF U.S.-SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY AGREEMENT REPORTED

LD031912 Moscow TASS in English 1828 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] New York, March 3, TASS--A report was distributed in the United Nations saying that the United States and Saudi Arabia recently reached a military agreement. The United States, in particular, managed to obtain permission for the U.S. Armed Forces to utilize military facilities in Saudi Arabia in case of an emergency in the Middle East or the Persian Gulf area.

The United States is planning to deploy at the military bases of Saudi Arabia in Dhahran, Tabuk, Khamis-Mushait and Jebel modern arms depots. These bases will serve to station major military units and provide their employment in the Middle and Near East.

As it is reported here, both sides, taking into consideration the internal situation in Saudi Arabia, agreed that the deployment of U.S. weapons at these bases will go alongside the supplies of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia. By implementing these plans the United States would like to cover up a new build-up of American arms in the region.

VANCE FAILURE TO MENTION BREZHNEV WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT SCORED

LD041156 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has spoken in defense of the administration's policy of upsetting the process of easing tensions and has urged further confrontation with the Soviet Union.

He said in Chicago that sanctions against the Soviet Union should be continued in various fields, including shipments of equipment and technology. They should also apply to the summer Olympics in Moscow, he said.

Cyrus Vance gave as the reason for this the events in Afghanistan, but he said nothing about President Brezhnev's recent statement that the Soviet Union will be prepared to start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan as soon as a stop is put to all forms of interference in the republic's affairs.

CHEMICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT HIT

LD031049 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed report from V. Kondrashov roundup "The Day Worldwide" under the rubric "The Press Testifies": "Criminal Designs"]

[Text] As the New York TIMES reports, for many years now work has been taking place in the United States to improve and create new types of chemical and bacteriological means of waging war. Citing U.S. Department of Army sources, the newspaper notes that research work to create "binary missiles" is nearly finished and it is already practically possible to organize series production. These missiles carry chemicals which on explosion from nerve gases capable of killing all living things instantaneously. Plans for equipping American artillery with binary missiles are being elaborated intensively. The newspaper quotes a Pentagon chemical weapons "expert," who states cynically that "no ban on the use of chemical weapons will work, since they are very effective and it is easy to manufacture and use them and also to conceal the evidence of their use."

CHINA

YEGIN: PRC PLANS TO ATTACK VIETNAM AGAIN

OW040128 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1230 GMT 3 Mar 80 OW

[Text] The top echelon of the Chinese leadership launched premeditated large-scale aggressive operations against peace-loving Vietnam in February 1979. However, Beijing's 600,000 troops failed to achieve the goal of imposing its will on this neighboring country. After 1 month of fierce fighting, the Vietnamese People's Army and residents in northern Vietnamese provinces wiped out 60,000 of the invading Chinese troops, thus forcing the remainder of the invading Chinese troops to disgracefully run away from Vietnamese territory. In this connection, station observer Yegin writes:

The Vietnamese people have time and again proved that they can defend themselves and that their victories can be regarded as an important contribution to safeguarding the independence of other Southeast Asian countries, for Beijing has long coveted the wealth of this region. As early as 1965, Mao Zedong said at a meeting of the CCP Central Committee's Politburo: We must take over Southeast Asia, including South Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia and Singapore. This is a rich region abundant in mineral resources, and it is worth our efforts to take over this region which will be very useful to the development of China's industry.

The Beijing leadership has long attempted to use Vietnam to realize its expansionist goals in this region. At the Sino-Vietnamese talks in 1963, Premier Zhou Enlai said: We hope that the Vietnamese Workers Party will help us pave the way to Southeast Asia. This statement shows that Beijing regards Vietnam as a bridge for its southward expansion. If the Beijing leadership had achieved this aim, today other Southeast Asian countries would have become direct targets of Beijing's expansion. However, the Vietnamese people firmly resisted the Beijing hegemonists' encroachment of their country's sovereignty and refused to play the role of a docile tool of Beijing's policy of aggression, thus stopping China's expansion into other countries in Southeast Asia.

Beijing did in Kampuchea what it failed to do in Vietnam. Beijing used its puppets, the Pol Pot clique, to keep Kampuchea under complete control and to turn this country into a strategic base for China's expansion in Southeast Asia. Beijing carried out armed provocations against Thailand and Laos from Kampuchean territory under Pol Pot's rule and its armed provocations against Vietnam gradually developed into a border war. This was the way the Beijing leadership attempted to hold up and defeat Vietnam militarily and then to impose its will on the latter. However, the Beijing leadership miscalculated. Pol Pot's troops suffered a crushing defeat after Vietnam launched a fierce counter-attack. The Kampuchean people revolted and freed themselves from the oppression of executioner Pol Pot. Thus, Kampuchea is no longer the Beijing hegemonists' strategic base but has become a factor of peace in this region. Vietnam has preserved its independence and has defended itself from the Beijing hegemonists' premeditated aggression, while at the same time, it has prevented Beijing from carrying out expansionist activities against other Southeast Asian countries.

However, the Beijing hegemonists are not reconciled to this. They are prepared to invade Laos and to attack Vietnam again and are dreaming of reimposing the Pol Pot clique on the Kampuchean people. All this shows that Beijing has not given up its conspiracy of expansion in Southeast Asia. To achieve their aim, the Beijing leaders are attempting to instigate ASEAN countries to oppose Indochinese countries. They are attempting to use the ASEAN countries to serve their policy of aggression by having them deal blows at Vietnam, because Vietnam is the main obstacle to Beijing's expansion in Southeast Asia. The Beijing hegemonists' conspiracy of posing a threat to the peace and security in Southeast Asia is bound to fail if only the Southeast Asian people are determined to resist it as the Vietnamese people have done over the past 10 years.

SOVIET-DPRK TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED IN MOSCOW

SK040204 Moscow in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 29 Feb 80 SK

[Text] A conference between the Soviet Union and the DPRK on trade in 1980 ended on 28 February in Moscow. As a result a protocol was signed. It will further develop the program of mutual supply of goods.

As usual, the Soviet Union will supply the DPRK with machinery, installations, coal, cokes, crude oil, petrochemical products, ferroalloys, chrome pipe, manganese bars, tires, cotton and other goods. Meanwhile, the Korean side will supply the Soviet Union with machine tools, rolled ferrous metal products, vegetables, fruits and other consumer goods.

Commentary on Economic Significance

SK040449 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 29 Feb 80 SK

[Unidentified Moscow Radio commentator on the Soviet-DPRK trade protocol for 1980, signed on 28 February in Moscow]

[Text] The trade protocol is of great significance in Soviet-Korean economic relations. Soviet-Korean economic relations are based on the principle of complete equality, reciprocity, comradely assistance, mutual support and proletarian internationalism.

It should be noted that today the Soviet Union is the first trade partner of socialist Korea. At the same time, various products of the DPRK are utilized by the people's economy of our country. Industrial facilities take a lion's share in the trade between the Soviet Union and the DPRK. Considering the demand of the socialist people's economy of Korea, which is developing at a rapid pace, this year our country will export power plant installations, geological survey facilities, equipment for the auto and shipbuilding industries, machine tools with programmed regulators and various vehicles.

The Anju and Yonghung coal mines, the Kimchaek iron works and major industrial plants of the DPRK will receive Soviet machineries and equipment. Soviet cotton is important for the development of the DPRK textile industry.

MIYAMOTO GIVES WELCOMING SPEECH AT JAPAN CP CONGRESS

ID031123 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 80 p 4 ID

[Correspondent Yu. Vdovin report: "Upholding the Working People's Interests: Communist Party of Japan Congress"]

[Excerpts] Atami, 26 February--The 15th Japan Communist Party (JCP) Congress began its work today in the outskirts of the small resort town of Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture. Its delegates, numbering over 1,000 will hear and discuss the JCP Central Committee report, a report on the party's preparation for the elections to the upper chamber of parliament this summer, and will examine the question of partial changes in the JCP rules. Delegations from 29 foreign communist and workers parties including a CPSU delegation headed by V.I. Dolgikh, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are taking part in the work of the congress, which will last 5 days.

The congress was opened by S. Nosaka, chairman of the JCP Central Committee. After electing the congress Presidium and other working organs, K. Miyamoto, chairman of the JCP Central Committee Presidium, delivered a welcoming speech.

In his greetings, Miyamoto devoted a lot of space to the JCP's activity in defense of the interests of the working masses and to the exposure of the ruling circles' reactionary policy pursued to the advantage of big capital and U.S. imperialism. With every passing year, he noted, the antipopular essence of the course of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party and its government is becoming increasingly blatant, which is leading to the weakening of their positions among the voters. In 1966 some 57.6 percent of the electorate voted for the Liberal-Democratic Party yet in fall last year this figure had dropped to 44.6 percent. Nor did the other parties achieve notable successes at the last general elections. Yet the JCP increased its representation by 22 deputies. This attests to the fact that the people are leaning increasingly toward the forces which really advocate changes.

Analyzing the political situation in the country, Miyamoto criticized the attempts of the opposition parties, including the Japan Socialist Party, on the threshold of the elections to the upper chamber of parliament due this summer, to form a bloc among themselves on the basis of refusing to cooperate with the JCP. This course, he said, creates serious obstacles on the path of attaining unity of action of all forces, advocating change, in the struggle against the Liberal Democrats' rule.

Speaking of the tasks facing the party, Miyamoto called for attention to be focused on preparation for the elections. There is no doubt, he said that our political opponents will make every effort to prevent us from repeating last year's success. Already under carious pretexts they are mounting an anticommunist campaign whose aim is to discredit the JCP. We must launch still further the struggle against this campaign and for the expansion of the party's influence and support, which will be a guarantee of new success for us.

Touching on the international situation, Miyamoto noted that many events causing tension in the world are directly connected with the existence of military blocs the creation of which was initiated by the United States. In an attempt to hinder the peoples' national liberation struggle and the dissemination of socialism, U.S. imperialism has enmeshed the world in a net of military alliances and is continuing to pursue a policy of interference from a position of strength. One of these alliances is the Japanese-U.S. security treaty which the Pentagon is using in order to involve Japan increasingly deeply in its aggressive strategy. We resolutely oppose a military alliance with the United States and assess as a class crime the Chinese leadership's support of the Japanese-U.S. security treaty, he said.

Setting forth the JCP's special position on the question of the events in Afghanistan, Miyamoto at the same time resolutely demanded an end to the use of Pakistan as a base for interference by the United States and other countries in the Afghan people's affairs and the rendering of aid to the rebels.

Dwelling next on the party's international activity since the 14th congress, Miyamoto assessed positively the results of the summit talks held in Moscow last December between JCP and CPSU delegations. The content of these talks is well known, he said, I am sure that the clauses enshrined in the joint statement on these talks are of great significance both for relations between the two parties and on the international plane.

In the afternoon, T. Fuwa, chairman of the JCP Central Committee Secretariat, delivered the JCP Central Committee report.

KARMAL ADDRESSES AFGHAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD032116 Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 3, TASS--The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has met here. According to the BAKHTAR agency, the session was addressed by general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal, who spoke on the situation in the country and in the area and on the internal and foreign policy of Afghanistan.

The government adopted a number of decisions on the internal and foreign policy of the country now that the April revolution entered its new stage. The documents stress that Democratic Afghanistan sincerely wants good-neighborly relations with neighbouring Iran and Pakistan and all Islamic states. Afghanistan favours the settlement of all differences through peaceful means. For this purpose the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to send delegations of good will to all friendly countries and receive similar delegations in its turn.

The working people of Afghanistan express their cordial gratitude to the Soviet people for their material and moral support, especially in the recent period after the dispatch of a limited contingent of Soviet troops in accordance with the treaty of friendship, good-neighbourly relations and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, signed on December 5, 1978, and under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter to defend national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, as well as to rebuff foreign provocations and aggression, carried out by American imperialism, Chinese hegemonists and Pakistani reaction, as well as Zionists, the As-Sadat regime and their henchmen.

The Government of Afghanistan states with determination to the whole world that the limited contingent of friendly Soviet troops will remain in independent and free Afghanistan until all scheme, intrigues and treacherous plans of regional reaction and imperialism against the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Afghanistan are stopped. The revolutionary and heroic people of Afghanistan will never allow anybody to disseminate lies about the fate of Afghanistan, its internal and foreign policy and take provocative "decisions" on these issues, ignoring the will of independent and heroic people of Afghanistan and its government. Revolutionary Afghanistan strongly and resolutely condemns and rejects the blatant policy of foreign interference into its internal affairs.

The Government of Afghanistan decided to set up a special commission within the Justice Ministry to consider the issues of the provisional structure of the Government, the authority and tasks of the Revolutionary Council and the government, the relations between the government and the Revolutionary Council and other issues. A number of commissions were also created to work out measures to stabilise prices of essentials and help the working people of the country.

AFGHANISTAN'S KESHTMAND INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT SITUATION

LD031750 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Western media are falsifying the events that are now taking place in Afghanistan for the purpose of deceiving the world public.

Recently western news agencies spread the rumor that Afghan Deputy Premier Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand had been killed during an exchange of fire at a Revolutionary Council meeting. Our correspondent has met Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and here is what he said:

[Begin Keshtmand recording followed by English translation] The American imperialists and Chinese hegemonists are intensifying their interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs under the accompaniment of a propaganda racket that is false to the core, says Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. Now it is clear to everyone that the United States and China are waging a dirty undeclared war against the Afghan people and using neighboring Pakistan as a springboard. The latest acts by subversive elements in Kabul were an indisputable evidence of the United States' and China's shameless interference in the Afghan internal affairs.

The whole world already knows that the American Central Intelligence Agency is directly involved in anti-Afghan subversive and terrorist activity. American special services are acting in concert with the Chinese hegemonists, the Zionists and the reactionary forces of Egypt and Pakistan. Under the circumstances the Afghan Government, basing on its friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union and in accordance with the UN Charter, asked the Soviet Union for aid and received this aid for repelling the outside aggression and for protecting the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The goals of this aid were described in detail by the Soviet president, Leonid Brezhnev, during a meeting with his constituency.

The Afghan people have enough reason to be sure that the Soviet Union is a loyal friend of all nations, including the Afghan nation. Ever since the victory of the socialist revolution in Russia, that is for over 60 years now, the Soviet Union has been giving enormous aid to the Afghan people for strengthening their country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and for raising their economy and culture.

In conclusion, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said he was proud to express on behalf of his people sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union. Despite all intrigues of imperialism, reaction and Chinese hegemonism, he said, the Afghan people were resolved to defend their revolutionary gains and to build a new life. In this they were inspired by the example of the great Soviet Union and by their friendship and cooperation with the entire socialist community.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS AFGHAN ARMY OPERATION AGAINST REBELS

ID031033 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[Special correspondent Yu. Gavrilov report: "With Faith in Victory:"]

[Text] Kabul, 27 February--The Province of Ghazi is southwest of Kabul. Servicemen of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's [DRA] revolutionary Armed Forces recently carried out an operation there against a counterrevolutionary gang. As elsewhere, this reactionary rabble consisting of saboteurs and killers was operating on the direct orders of those who are waging an undeclared war from outside against the DRA and its people and government. [paragraph continues]

The armed bandits block roads, prevent the delivery of essential goods and terrorize the peasants. In other words, they are doing everything to undermine the country's economy and create an atmsophere of uncertainty and fear. This is particularly pernicious at the moment, since preparations are under way for the sowing campaign and rural dwellers need a peaceful atmosphere. The government has expressed readiness to grant the peasants seeds, agricultural implements and loans....

I talked with people who had taken part in the operation. A young energetic serviceman in a well-fitting gray field uniform introduced himself:

"Senior Lieutenant (Afsar), deputy chief of X formation reconnaissance unit...."

On the officer's shoulder straps, which were made from the same gray cloth, shone a transverse metal strip and stars--the badges of his military rank. He spoke about the battles with bandits as if they were a matter of course:

"It took 4 days to break the resistance of the gang of (dushmans), as we call the enemies of the revolution, and to surround and destroy them. It happened in the region of the settlement of (Uagaza). We succeeded in seizing a considerable number of criminals there and one of the ringleaders was unable to escape. As trophies we seized a whole cache of weapons--large caliber machineguns, American and Chinese-made rifles and grenades with Chinese markings and, as always, a mass of poisonous press propaganda. As you see, the mercenaries' masters do not stint on their equipment."

Senior Lieutenant (Afsar) told me that local residents helped them to discover the gang's lair. This is one of many indications that the conscious section of the population rightly regard the revolutionary armed forces servicemen as their defenders and help them actively, despite the unceasing intimidation and terror from the counterrevolutionaries.

Fewer and fewer people are swallowing the bait of the "people's friends," as the bandits call themselves. Even among the most backward strata of the population enlightenment is gradually setting in. This process is inevitable. "A stone will not become soft--an enemy will not become a friend," an Afghan proverb says.

Another person I spoke with, Captain (Dostagir), chief of the political department of that same formation, stressed, as if to conclude his colleague's story:

"The servicemen of the subunits which took part in the operation we carried out in the (Uagaza) region acted boldly and resolutely, with faith in victory, displaying a high moral spirit."

According to reports reaching Kabul successful actions have recently been carried out against counterrevolutionary gangs in the north and east of the country. The provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Paktia and Konar and other regions are mentioned. In close unity with the people, the DRA Armed Forces are fully determined to wreck the conspiracy of foreign and internal reaction and defend the April revolution's gains.

AFGHAN ETHNIC LEADER CONDEMNS ACTIONS OF 'MERCENARIES'

LD031610 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 3 TASS--Leader of Afghanistan's Ismailites, Ka'id Nadir Shah Kayani spoke over Kabul Television. He condemned resolutely the actions of mercenaries and spies of the United States, Britain, Israel, China and Pakistan who, using as a cover the slogan of protection of Islam, stage crimes against the people of Afghanistan. He stressed that economic sabotage, looting, arson and killings of innocent people contradict the principles of Islam. Sa'id Nadir Shah Kayani urged all Moslems of Afghanistan not to be misled by lies and hostile propaganda, to rise to the struggle and courageously defend their motherland and national sovereignty of Afghanistan against the sorties of foreign hirelings.

'CLANDESTINE GROUPS' NAMED BEHIND KABUL UNREST 'DISTURBANCES'

LD031958 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 3, TASS--The situation in Kabul is returning to normal. The population of the Afghan capital is engaged in its everyday activities. State institutions and city traffic function as usual, most of the shops are open, normal provision of the city is being restored.

The attempts of the saboteurs and provocateurs, smuggled into Kabul from abroad, to upset for long the life of Afghanistan's principal city and demoralize its population have failed. Investigation of persons detained by the security force and militia with the active participation of the population produces new evidence that the disturbances staged by the mercenaries on February 21-23 were to be turned into an open armed insurgency against the legitimate Government of Afghanistan. Direct participation of Pakistani citizens in the atrocities against the residents of the capital, complicity of the Pakistani authorities, as well as of the United States and China, in moving to Kabul weapons, radio stations, foreign currency and seditious literature has been proved.

The crushing of the counter-revolutionary elements does not mean, however, that the enemies of Democratic Afghanistan put up with the defeat. Tens of bandits were detained in the most recent days in the city, several new depots of weapons were found, clandestine groups belonging to the so-called Islamic Party of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar were uncovered.

The arrested criminals confirm that in the past days the United States, assisted by the Pakistani authorities, was taking measures to unite the separate gangs for creating the so-called "Islamic Union for the liberation of Afghanistan."

A gathering was held in Peshawar late in February which concentrated on setting up a counter-revolutionary council to direct all anti-Afghan activities, including those of military nature.

That meeting also discussed questions of supplying sabotage bands with weapons, including tanks, armoured vehicles, anti-aircraft guns. These weapons will be shipped from the United States, China and some other countries.

An important role at the meeting was played by Mohammed Nur Khan Babrak Zai, Gilani and several other leaders of the counter-revolution who did not conceal that they are not only involved into, but also played an active part in the recent developments in Kabul.

At the same time the counter-revolutionary forces are trying to create complications on the Afghan-Iranian border. Border incidents are being provoked for this end, which are prevented as "machinations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan." The counter-revolutionary gangs use in some cases uniforms of the servicemen of Democratic Afghanistan.

WESTERN REPORTS OF SHI'ITE MUSLIMS' EXECUTION SEEN AS 'LIES'

LD032034 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Political news analyst Y. Kornilov report]

[Text] Moscow, March 3, TASS--It is known that truthfulness is not characteristic of reports on Afghanistan by the U.S. mass media. Another evidence of this is a fabricated report of the news agency UPI about the February events in Kabul. Referring to some anonymous "diplomatic circles," the UPI asserts that the recent disturbances in the Afthan capital were organized by the Shi'ite Moslems who are, allegedly, now subjected to wholesale reprisals by the authorities and are executed.

Every world in this report is a lie and an ill-intentioned lie at that. It is no secret to anyone now as to who it was that really tried recently to disturb the peaceful life of Kabul, who was setting on fire buildings in Kabul and looting stores. The competent Afghan bodies established that this was done by hirelings of the imperialist and reactionary forces who were armed and trained outside the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and were illegally brought into Afghanistan from the outside.

All this was officially reported by the Afghan news agency BAKHTAR. It also reported that all talk of the Western propaganda about "wholesale arrests" and "mass executions" that allegedly take place in Kabul is a lie from the arsenal of imperialist propaganda. Representatives of the Afghan security bodies, on their part, declared that except for cases when the counter-revolutionary elements were arrested on the spot of crime or on the basis of irrefutable proof and documents, not one person was detained, let alone executed.

Such are facts. Preparing another anti-Afghan concoction, falsifiers from the UPI agency apparently did not even glance at official information from Kabul confirmed by irreversible facts. Instead they launched a canard.

PRAVDA CITES AFGHAN DENIAL OF EXECUTIONS AFTER KABUL UNREST

LD040937 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Deliberate Lie"]

[Text] Kabul, 29 February--Following the frustration of the recent attempt by imperialism and reaction to perpetrate disturbances in the Afghan capital, the West's mass news media have mounted a new campaign of attacks on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In this connection the Afghan BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has issued a statement condemning the intrigues of forces of external aggression and reaction.

The imperialist lie machine, particularly America's UPI, it reads, has disseminated a report alleging that 1,000 people were arrested and shot following the recent disturbances provoked by counterrevolutionary elements in Kabul. America mass news media are also spreading other deliberate lies of this sort.

The BAKHTAR agency resolutely and totally denies these false reports, regarding them as a routine falsification derived from the arsenal of imperialist propaganda.

After obtaining elucidation from the country's security organs a BAKHTAR agency correspondent is authorized to state that apart from those cases where counterrevolutionary elements were arrested at the scene of a crime or on the basis of incontrovertible evidence and documents, not one person was detained, not to mention anyone being executed.

As is known, the revolutionary Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has declared that criminals implicated in counterrevolutionary activities will be put on trial on the basis of the laws existing in the country and will be punished in accordance with the measure of their guilt. Not the slightest harm will be occasioned to anyone without a sentence of the revolutionary court.

The aims of our party and state are imbued with humanism and concern for man, for the whole point of their activity is service for the good of the Afghan people. No force can change the will of our people, who, united with the state and the party, are struggling to build a new society.

'INVESTIGATIONS' OF ARRESTED PERSONS CONTINUE IN KABUL

LD041147 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1037 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 4, TASS--A calm situation is being maintained in Kabul. Business and political life have returned to normal.

Investigation organs are continuing to examine the cases of persons arrested in Kabul during the events provoked on 22 and 23 February by agents of the special services of the United States, China and Pakistan. A special commission set up to determine the degree of guilt of those arrested has found it possible to free 112 persons who were judged to be only slightly guilty. In addition, 130 young people who became involved in the disturbances in the city by the terrorists were handed over to their parents.

In order to prevent a possible penetration into Kabul of hostile elements and also secret supplies of weapons and ammunition to Kabul, the security organs together with representatives of the people's militia and of the patriots are checking means of transport being allowed into the capital.

During the last 24 hours uncoordinated operations by bands of mercenaries have been noted in certain Afghan provinces adjacent to the Pakistani border.

The authorities are carrying out active explanatory work among the population. Meetings have been held at a number of enterprises at which those taking part expressed support for the measures being taken to combat the counterrevolutionary activities of terrorists sent into Afghanistan from abroad.

UPI QUOTED ON SAUDI AID TO AFGHAN 'TERRORISTS'

LD041134 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] International imperialism and reaction continue to supply arms and money to bandit formations based in Pakistan and engaged in subversive activities against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. According to UPI, Saudi Arabia has made $7 million available to the terrorists. It is also known that the Saudi Government has handed over to Pakistan substantial sums of money to purchase arms in the United States.

AFGHAN EDUCATION MINISTRY DELEGATION VISITS BELORUSSIA

LD041011 Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 23 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[BELTA report: "Delegation of Afghanistan Education Workers"]

[Text] A delegation from the Afghan Ministry of Education is in the Belorussian capital. The members of the delegation have had talks at the Belorussian Ministry of Education. Deputy Minister R.I. Sernov and department leaders told the guests about the organizational structure and forms of public education, educational and training work and the vocational guidance for school graduates.

The Afghan education workers visited the No 220 kindergarten, where they familiarized themselves with children's preschool education. At the No 7 working youth's school they inquired about the organization of the training of people employed in production.

"The new Afghanistan, which inherited from the monarchic regime a population with a 95 percent illiteracy rate, is now resolving the same problem which once faced the young Soviet land," (Baten Shakh Zafarzay), chief of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Education Ministry's Administration for the Abolition of Illiteracy and head of the delegation, said in a talk with a BELTA correspondent. "That is why Soviet experience in abolishing illiteracy and further developing education is of great interest to us.

"We are deeply grateful to the USSR for its fraternal aid. Soviet specialists, including representatives of Belorussia, have helped us in Afghanistan to compile primary school programs and textbooks. Such materials are now being prepared for pupils in the fifth to sixth and senior grades.

"We are happy that the mighty Soviet Union is our neighbor."

The delegation members visited the Belorussian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War and toured the city's sights. On subsequent days they will continue their study of the education system and familiarize themselves with the monuments of the Soviet people's heroic past and make a trip to Brest.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS DELEGATION ENDS AFGHAN VISIT

LD291706 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 29, TASS--A delegation of the World Federation of Trade Unions has ended its visit to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Led by the Head of the Department of Trade Union Internationals Madhavan Atchutan, the delegation conducted talks with the country's trade union leaders.

A communique on the results of the visit, reported by BAKHTAR agency, notes that the representatives of the WFTU and Afghan trade unions had emphasised their common adherence to the cause of peace in the whole world, the strengthening of the relaxation of international tension, to tasks of struggle against imperialism, racism and Zionism. The sides also sharply condemned the aggression against the DRA by the American imperialists, the Beijing leadership, Egypt and Pakistan.

The WFTU and Afghan trade unions stated that the Soviet Union's timely and friendly assistance to the DRA serves the cause of peace in the region.

BANGLADESH CP RESOLUTION SUPPORTS USSR ON AFGHANISTAN

ID272331 Moscow TASS in English 2048 GMT 27 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Dacca, February 27, TASS--Thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union and all the peace forces, relaxation of international tensions during the recent decade has become a reality, says a resolution on the international situation adopted here at the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh. A major event was the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Helsinki, which gave the peoples the confidence that detente may become an irreversible process, the resolution says. However, in the late seventies and the beginning of the eighties Washington's policy underwent a reversal towards the "cold war," the congress' resolution says. The Communist Party of Bangladesh emphasizes that this began long before the events in Afghanistan which had only provided a pretext for the imperialist forces to embark on an onslaught against peace and detente. The aim of this new imperialist course was to prevent the inevitable consolidation, in the international arena, of the positions of the forces of peace, national liberation movement and socialism.

The expansion of U.S. military presence in Asia, Africa and Latin America constitutes a concentrated expression of the essence of modern imperialism and aims at whipping up the arms race. In these circumstances, the document says, it is highly indispensable to strengthen the unity and solidarity of the international communist movement.

A special resolution passed by the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh welcomes the measures of the Soviet Union which has provided a fraternal assistance to the Afghan people. The Bangladesh communists, the document says, warmly welcome the April revolution in Afghanistan which has put an end for all times to exploitation and centuries-old feudal oppression in the country. The revolutionary gains of the Afghan people proved unpalatable to U.S. imperialists and Chinese Maoists who, making use of Pakistan, have infiltrated and continue to infiltrate gangs of armed mercenaries into the territory of the sovereign Afghan state. The Communist Party of Bangladesh expresses full support for the timely actions of the Soviet Union which has held out a helping hand to the Afghan people in its hour of trial. This constitutes an example of the Soviet Union's fidelity to its internationalist duty.

Imperialism and the Maoist China are expanding their aggressive policy in South and Southeast Asia, says a resolution of the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh on the situation in that part of the globe. This policy expresses itself in the provoked subversive activities of separatists and the fanning up of religious and communal divisions in different parts of India, in attempts to bring pressure to bear on Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka with a view to forcing them to change their policy of nonalignment, in the "rearmament" and use of Pakistan as an instrument for the pursuit of the imperialist policy in the region. Imperialists, together with Maoists, are attempting to encroach on the revolutionary gains of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean peoples. Their plans range so wide that they would wish to transform the association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) into a new military bloc.

The aggressive strategy of imperialists and Maoists, the document says, poses a serious challenge to the world peace, independence and security of the peoples of Southeast and South Asia. The Third Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh calls on the people of the South and Southeast Asia to rebuff, through concerted efforts, the encroachments of imperialism and Beijing hegemonists in that part of the world.

PHAM VAN DONG TELLS AUCCTU OFFICIAL OF BREZHNEV SUPPORT

LD011330 Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 1, TASS--We express our profound gratitude to Comrade Leonid Brezhnev for his resolute support of Vietnam's revolutionary cause, said Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, prime minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at a meeting with a delegation of representatives of the Soviet public, headed by Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions K.Yu. Matskyavichyus. This support, stressed Pham Van Dong, is a powerful source of inspiration for the Vietnamese people waging struggle for construction of socialism. It ensures the reliable defence of the socialist fatherland.

Pham Van Dong highly appreciated the statements on foreign policy problems made in Leonid Brezhnev's speech at the election meeting. We, the prime minister said, warmly welcome the statement made by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in connection with the events in Afghanistan. This statement is of a principled character. It is characterized by firmness and a great convincing force and gives rise to satisfaction of all peace-loving and honest people of the globe. The statement points with absolute clarity that the Soviet Union is the bulwark of peace and the revolutionary forces in the whole world.

Consolidation of the USSR, of the whole of the socialist community, said the prime minister, serves as a reliable guarantee of victories of the Vietnamese revolution. Everything achieved by us, he stressed, all our successes and accomplishments are inseparable from Vietnamese-Soviet friendship. Further consolidation of friendship with the Soviet Union is our political course, the ideological line, the matter of honor of the Vietnamese people. Pham Van Dong expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet people for the gift to the Vietnamese brothers--fabrics, clothing, building materials, various equipment, school stationary, purchased with the money earned by the all-union communist subbotnik in honour of the 109th anniverary of V.I. Lenin's birth.

SOIREE HELD IN MOSCOW MARKS VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR

ID281133 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 80 p 4 ID

[TASS report: "Ceremonial Soiree"]

[Text] At a soiree held in Moscow on 18 February representatives of the Soviet public conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] working people on their traditional "Tet" new year holiday and wishes for further successes in building a new life.

Pilot-Cosmonaut of the USSR G.S. Titov, chairman of the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society Central Board, and other speakers spoke of the friendship of the two countries' peoples and their fruitful multifaceted cooperation.

In his speech Nguyen Huu Khieu, SRV ambassador to the USSR, assessed highly the unvarying solidarity of Soviet people and the working people of the other socialist countries with the Vietnamese people's just cause and voiced thanks for the aid which has been and continues to be rendered to his motherland.

A delegation from the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Society headed by the society's General Secretary (Vu Kuok Ui) and representatives of the other socialist countries' societies for friendship with the USSR took part in the soiree.

FOREIGN MINISTER THACH THANKS GROMYKO FOR CONGRATULATIONS

ID261653 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Text of Nguyen Co Thach Message to Gromyko]

[Text] To Comrade A.A. Gromyko, USSR minister of foreign affairs.

Esteemed Comrade A.A. Gromyko!

I thank you sincerely for your warm congratulations on my appointment to the post of minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV].

I am firmly convinced that the friendship, combat solidarity and all-round cooperation between our countries, which are founded on the principles of Marxist-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, will continue to steadily develop and strengthen.

I hope that the USSR and the SRV will maintain close cooperation and coordination of actions with a view to fulfilling the foreign policy tasks set by our parties and states in the common struggle against the forces of imperialism and international reaction for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

I wish you, Comrade Minister, good health and new successes in your noble activity.

[Signed] Nguyen Co Thach, SRV minister of foreign affairs.

ALIYEV ACCOMPANIES HENG SAMRIN DURING BAKU ACTIVITIES

LD031151 [Editorial Report LD] Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian on 10 February 1980 frontpages a 450-word unattributed report on the 9 February arrival in Baku from Leningrad of Heng Samrin, president of the Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Council, and his accompanying delegation. The report lists "G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee," among the welcoming party at Baku airport. The same paper also front-pages a report on a visit by the Heng Samrin delegation, accompanied by Aliyev, to see a ballet at the M.F. Akhundov State Academy Opera and Ballet Theater on the evening of 9 February.

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY for 12 February front-pages an AZERINFORM report on a dinner given 11 February by the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee and Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Government in honor of the Heng Samrin delegation. The report notes that "G.A. Aliyev and Heng Samrin exchanged toasts at the dinner, which was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere." The same paper frontpages an Azerinform report on the Heng Samrin delegation's departure from Baku on the evening of 11 February, listing Aliyev among the sendoff party at the airport.

YUGOSLAV CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM MEETS IN BELGRADE

LD291311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "LCY Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Belgrade, 20 February--An LCY Central Committee plenum took place here today. A resolution was adopted on further enhancing the LCY's leading role in society. Other questions were also examined, in particular on the role and tasks of young people.

The plenum sent a letter to J. Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia and LCY chairman, wishing him the speediest recovery.

BREZHNEV PRESENTS AWARD TO HUNGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

LD291505 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[TASS reports: "Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's Reception of Comrade L. Czinege" and "Presentation of Award"]

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received Lajos Czinege, minister of defense of the Hungarian People's Republic, in the Kremlin today.

During a conversation marked by full unity of views, questions pertaining to diversified Soviet-Hungarian cooperation and to the international situation as it is developing were touched upon.

Taking part in the conversation were Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, and Blatov, assistant to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Also in the Kremlin today Comrade Brezhnev presented the Order of the October Revolution to Comrade Czinege. During the presentation of the order he delivered a speech.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech

Esteemed comrades, I take great satisfaction in presenting the Order of the October Revolution today to Army General Lajos Czinege, minister of defense of the Hungarian People's Republic. With this award our homeland recognizes your great services, Comrade Czinege, to the development and strengthening of the friendly relations between the armed forces of the USSR and of the Hungarian People's Army. We have profound respect for our Hungarian friend who has held for about 20 years now the lofty post of minister of defense. As a communist and internationalist he makes a considerable contribution to the collective efforts of our allied countries in strengthening the military organization of the Warsaw Pact.

It is a good thing that we have created this defensive shield. Unfortunately, there are more than enough, as they say, disturbing situations in world developments. Today we are experiencing one of these. As ever, our power--and it is great--is aimed at paralyzing the forces of war and at protecting and consolidating peace on earth. It is precisely these aims that the Warsaw Pact has been reliably serving for almost a quarter of a century in Europe. I cordially congratulate you, esteemed Comrade Czinege, on your lofty award. I wish you good health and further fruitful work for the well-being of socialist Hungary and for the inviolable Soviet-Hungarian friendship.

In reply, Comrade Czinege stressed that he accepts with great emotion the lofty Soviet award from the hands of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Comrade Brezhnev. I view this award, he said, as being not only recognitionfor my personal services but also a high assessment of the activity of our party, which I have served loyally and which I will continue to serve.

Comrade Czinege expressed deep gratitude for the tremendous assistance being given by the CPSU and by the Soviet people to the development and strengthening of his homeland and the Hungarian People's Army. The minister of defense of the Hungarian People's Republic stated that he would do everything to make sure that the friendly ties between the glorious armed forces of the USSR and of the Hungarian People's Army and between all armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member states gain in strength and develop year in and year out in the interest of fulfilling the tasks aimed at serving the cause of peace and socialism. Comrade Czinege wished Comrade Brezhnev good health and successful activity for the well-being of the Soviet people and all peoples of the world.

Present at the award presentation were: Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and also Georgadze, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Marshal of the Soviet Union Ogarkov, chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first deputy USSR minister of defense; Marshal of the Soviet Union Kulikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states and first deputy USSR minister of defense; Army General Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Blatov, assistant to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Also present in the hall were Fazekas, deputy chief of staff of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states; Pinter, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Hungarian People's Republic in the USSR, and other Hungarian comrades.

Those present warmly congratulated Lajos Czinege on his lofty Soviet award.

DEMICHEV ATTENDS CSSR CULTURE DAYS EXHIBITION

LD032131 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The CSSR culture days are continuing in our country. An exhibition of Czechoslovak glass and jewelry opened today in the Central House of Artists in Moscow. Attending the ceremony were Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture; Havlin, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee; and other officials.

EUROPE RESISTS U.S. PRESSURE TO JOIN 'ANTIDETENTE' POLICY

LD031615 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[N. Novikov International Review: "Europe and the Strategy of 'Antidetente'"]

[Text] The strategy of "antidetente" has long been in the making on the banks of the Potomac. Probably since a new phenomenon--the relaxation of tension--emerged in international politics in the early seventies, Washington has made it one of its foreign policy aims to block Europe's chosen path of constructive East-West cooperation in the interests of peace and security. But in recent years the peoples of Europe have seen for themselves that dozens of mankind's most urgent problems can be resolved only under conditions of peace and that none of them can be resolved with the help of the arms race or nuclear war.

Europe occupies a special place in the world. It is at the center of the confrontation between the two systems and is, so to speak, the most sensitive nerve in world politics. At the same time, given any complications in international life, Europe plays a stabilizing role. It is precisely this that the transatlantic strategists of "antidetente" dislike. They have elaborated an entire program for the dismantling of the international relations which have taken shape on the European Continent since Helsinki. "It has become obvious," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized in his speech at his election meeting with the working people, "that the present U.S. leadership is pursuing a policy of undermining detente and exacerbating the international situation. It is trying to dictate its will to the socialist states and other countries."

Recently, when the forces of imperialism have gone over to a counteroffensive against detente, peace and the peoples' rights, Washington has been venturing upon dangerous surgical intervention in the living tissue of relations between the socialist countries and the states of West Europe. Toward the end of his career, as is known, the previous U.S. President tried to remove the word "detente" from the lexicon of world politics. But this has not had the impact on the detente process on which the White House was then counting, for the world does not wish to be plunged back into the slough of confrontation and enmity. The present U.S. President J. Carter did not even consider it necessary to mention detente in his alluring message to Congress. Does the White House think that after this detente, which accords with mankind's vital aspirations and aims, will cease to exist? Is not Washington overestimating its role in the historical process?

The measures to implement the political line outlined by Washington include the decision of the NATO Council's session held in the U.S. capital in May 1978. At that session the head of the U.S. administration demanded a constant building up of the bloc's military potential regardless of the development of events in the international arena. Under U.S. pressure a decision was adopted on an automatic annual increase of 3 percent in the NATO states' military spending through the end of this century. It can be expected that the Atlantic partners will soon be asked to follow the example of Washington, which has set the growth rate for military appropriations at 5 percent a year. In the next fiscal year alone U.S. military spending will increase by $20 billion, while by the mid-eighties the U.S. military budget will top the astronomic figure of $200 billion.

Washington's policy of overt militarization and of a feverish arms race has aroused the displeasure of the broad European public. This is understandable, for the Washington "hawks" are trying to sidetrack detente, which is firmly established in current international relations, into an impasse. Scholars faithfully serving the military-industrial complex have hastened to give the transatlantic hegemonists a hand. [paragraph continues]

They have launched a "theory," according to which the rapid development of the military industry at a time of economic crisis supposedly reduced unemployment. However, this flimsy "theory" is totally refuted by the facts. A Michigan group of experts has calculated, for example, that with $1 billion invested in the military industry it is possible to create 35,000 jobs, whereas the same billion invested in civilian sectors insures the creation of considerably more jobs: 80,000 in machine building, 100,000 in construction and 140,000 in the public health sphere. Hence it is quite clear that if the arms race brings any advantages, they certainly do not benefit the working people but rather the military-industrial monopolies making fabulous profits out of it.

Detente has become a thorn in the flesh of the Washington "hawks," who are pushing Europe to the brink of cold war. The policy of continuing the arms race also found expression in the NATO Council's decision of 12 December 1979 on the production and deployment of medium-range American nuclear missile weapons in certain West European countries. The purpose of all these actions is clear: to destroy the existing approximate parity in the military might of East and West and of the Soviet Union and the United States and to try to achieve superiority over the socialist community. The initiators of these measures probably do not reflect seriously on the reality of achieving the set aims. The Soviet leadership has repeatedly stated that the USSR will not allow this.

Before the adoption of the NATO Council's December decision Washington was intensively indoctrinating West European countries with a view to making them consent to the deployment of new types of American nuclear missile weapons on their territory. It is no secret that persuasion and promises, threats and blatant deceit were employed. There were propaganda stereotypes, worn smooth like old 5-kopeck pieces, such as the "Soviet military threat," the West's imaginary "laggardness" in arms and the need for urgent "arms upgrading."

As is known, NATO's plans have everywhere elicited a stormy reaction not only from the public in European countries but also from government and parliamentary circles. Millions of Europeans rightly see these plans drafted on the other side of the ocean as a threat posed to the peoples of West European states by the turning of their territory into a launch pad for American missiles targeted on the USSR and other socialist countries. In the event of a conflict this would mean shifting a nuclear counterstrike onto these countries and turning them into the nuclear hostages of U.S. imperialist circles. This is precisely why the new peace initiatives advanced in Berlin by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev have met with broad support in West Europe, particularly in small countries. The Soviet proposal that the USSR will never use nuclear weapons against those countries which do not have them on their territory made a great impression on the public in small NATO countries. The protest movement against NATO's dangerous plans has enveloped the bloc's small countries--the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Greece.

Having come up against the resistance of their junior partners, the Washington and NATO "hawks" resorted to putting undisguised pressure on the small countries both on the eve of the NATO Council's December session and at the session itself. According to the French newspaper LE FIGARO, the United States decided to display "firmness and even pitilessness" with regard to its junior partners. Washington would like to keep its European partners on a tight rein. However, the Americans are failing to do so. Even though the program to produce and deploy new nuclear missile weapons in West Europe was adopted in the end, the demonstration of a "united front" by the NATO allies did not come off. The Netherlands and Belgium refused in Brussels to give immediate consent to accept the American missiles, the Netherlands postponing a decision in the issue for 2 years and Belgium for 6 months.

At the same time the NATO Council's Brussels session clearly showed the unequal, subordinate position of the small countries within the bloc, where the command posts are held by representatives of the large countries, primarily the United States and the FRG. The West German newspaper WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE clarifies the NATO "table of ranks." It notes the bloc's division into "first and second-class" members, whereby the latter will have increasingly less influence on NATO planning and decisionmaking. At the same time a prominent place in the strategic plans and calculations of the captains of the aggressive military alliance has always been allocated to the North Atlantic bloc's small countries as important links in the "Atlantic defense" system.

In imposing the program for the "modernization" of nuclear missile weapons the United States is trying to entice Europe onto a path of global militarization and heap a new burden of military expenditure onto the shoulders of the continent's working people. This program is very disturbing to Europeans, who are concerned with strengthening their countries' sovereignty and independence. It is clear to everyone that the more Europe is drawn into American militarist operations, the stronger its vassal dependence on the United States becomes. Europeans cannot tolerate such a situation.

Nor can the peoples of Europe tolerate hegemonist U.S. pressure aimed at making their countries curtail economic ties with the Soviet Union. What pretext, then, has Washington found for this? It turns out to be...a truly fantastic one--to "punish the Russians for Afghanistan." A legitimate question arises first of all: On what grounds has Washington arbitrarily conferred upon itself the right to "punish" independent sovereign states? This is a most flagrant violation of international law by the United States. As regards the events in Afghanistan, there has been and is no Soviet "intervention" or "aggression" there. On totally lawful grounds the Soviet Union has rendered necessary assistance in repulsing external aggression.

The chief purpose of Washington's call to restrict European states' economic ties with the Soviet Union is to send them back to their starting positions and bring these relations under American control. As was only to be expected, this call has not found support in West European countries. The majority of West European countries consider that the policy being imposed by the present U.S. administration runs counter to the continent's economic and political interests. Of course, Europe is not homogeneous. There are influential forces in the continent's countries which indulge Washington's militarist, hegemonist plans. The establishment of businesslike cooperation among countries with different social systems has always been a pain in the neck to the Washington strategists of "antidetente." They are constantly trying to erect obstacles in the way of the development of these economic ties.

The U.S. pressure has been greeted with alarm and concern in West European countries. Europeans realize that the curtailment of successfully developing mutual economic ties with the Soviet Union would damage the West European economy and entail a worsening of the political climate on the continent. A positive attitude to Washington's demands on the part of West Europe would signify a blow to its own interests. Reporting that the Common Market countries did not support Washington's proposed idea to impose economic sanctions against the Soviet Union, the New York TIMES writes: "West European governments took this stand, plainly fearing for the fate of detente, but their reluctance to agree to radical trade sanctions against the USSR also includes a considerable share of what is now customarily called 'realism in politics.'"

Business circles in the West have learned to value the Soviet market's stability and capacity, particularly at a time when because of the economic slump the sales prospects for industrial output in capitalist countries are becoming increasingly uncertain. People on the other side of the ocean cannot reconcile themselves to the fact that peaceful trade, not militarist business or confrontation with the Soviet Union, has become advantageous to an ever-increasing number of not only West European but also American firms. Vain attempts to reverse the trend toward detente in international trade have become one of the means of restoring the lost U.S. hegemony in world economics.

American strategists of "antidetente" are failing in these designs, too. This results from a reluctance to reckon with the objective realities of world politics and economics. America's Chicago TRIBUNE states: "The NATO allies remain strongly attuned to detente and improved relations with the Soviet Union." This was precisely why the extraordinary meeting of representatives of the leading NATO states planned by Washington for 20 February in Bonn failed. This fact showed once again that the policy adopted by the U.S. administration of confrontation with the Soviet Union gives rise to serious doubts not only in Paris, which rejected the meeting, but also in other European capitals.

Sensing the threat of isolation, Washington decided to send American emissaries to the European Continent to approve the "antidetente" strategy and accustom the allies to it. W. Christopher, R. Cooper and even H. Kissinger made trips to West European countries.

The "arm twisting" and sweet warbling of the American emissaries on the subject of "Atlantic solidarity" obviously failed to achieve the expected effect. U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance was even obliged to set out on a lightning tour. It really was a lightning tour: In 2 days he visited the FRG, Italy, France and Britain. What was the purpose of the tour? The same thing: To reduce the gap formed between Washington and its West European NATO partners as a result of the U.S. administration's departure from the detente policy and to drag them onto the adventurist path of confrontation with the socialist countries. But even Vance failed to make appreciable progress in achieving these goals. Neither persuasion nor hegemonist U.S. pressure are any help.

Overcoming resistance, the will of the peoples has opened the way for the positive direction in European politics expressed in the capacious word "detente." This policy is supported by mighty forces. It has every chance of remaining the leading trend in the development of international relations. The peoples of Europe seek to insure that their continent remains a zone of stability and will not allow the intrusion of cold air from the banks of the Potomac.

GREECE REJECTS U.S. PLAN ON AEGEAN, MAY REJOIN NATO

LD291439 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[V. Drobkov dispatch: "'Rogers Plan' Rejected"]

[Text] Athens--The Greek Government has rejected the so-called "Rogers Plan" aimed at returning Greece to the NATO military organization.

As the official answer sent to American General B. Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander Europe, points out, Athens regards the offered redistribution of operational control in the Aegean Sea region as "incompatible with Greece's soveriegn rights." According to press reports here, B. Rogers hoped to secure, in exchange for Greece's return to the bloc's military structure, the transfer of vast sectors of the Aegean Sea and the airspace over it to the control of Turkey and NATO.

At the same time the answer to the NATO commander in chief expresses the Greek Government's readiness to return the country to the NATO military organization on the basis of the agreement reached with the bloc last year, which was opposed by Turkey. In other words, while rejecting the "Rogers plan" Athens is leaving the door open for a return to NATO militarist preparations if the bloc should persuade Ankara to agree to the distribution of control zones in the Aegean that existed before 1974.

This stance by the government is eliciting sharp criticism from progressive forces. A special statement by the Greek Communist Party Central Committee Press Office notes that the rejection of the "Rogers plan" does not mean a departure from the government's actual policy aimed at returning to the NATO military structure. The task consists not in the form of return to the bloc's military organization but in withdrawing completely from NATO, eliminating the foreign bases on Greek territory and making a contribution to the cause of peace, the statement points out.

GREECE, TURKEY REOPEN AEGEAN AIRSPACE TO AIRLINES

LD031043 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Droskov dispatch: "Airspace Opened"]

[Text] Athens, 24 February--First Turkey and then Greece have announced the opening of airspace above the Aegean. This decision will enable aircraft to use the air corridors which have in practice been closed since 1974, when there was a sharp worsening of Greek-Turkish relations in connection with the events on Cyprus. Athens and Ankara declared at the time that they could not "guarantee safety" above the sea which separates the two countries, and the world's leading airlines were forced to abandon flights in that region. As is pointed out in Athens, the opening of airspace above the Aegean will contribute to the normalization of Greek-Turkish relations.

At the same time attention here is being drawn to the fact that the decision to open the airspace has been adopted at a time when Athens is being subjected to strong NATO pressure aimed at returning this country to the bloc's military organization. The opening of the airspace, G. Mavros, member of Parliament and eminent politician, declared in this connection, must not become a trap for Greece, helping to draw it into NATO's military structure. A. Papandreou, leader of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, has also warned of the existence of such a danger.

BRIEFS

CONTRACT WITH FRENCH FIRM--Paris, February 23, TASS--TASS correspondent V. Golovyashkin reports: A fresh step in the development of Soviet-French trade and industrial ties has been the signing in Paris of a big contract with the Vallourec firm for the supply to the Soviet Union of 150,000 tons of large diametre pipes. The cooperation of the Soviet foreign trade organisations with this firm started more than 10 years ago and is of a regular character. The pipes supplied by Vallourec are used in the laying of gas and oil mains. We are gratified by the development of relations with Soviet foreign trade organisations. The USSR is a reliable trade partner, and we are interested in strengthening Soviet-French business cooperation, a TASS correspondent was told by President-Director General of the Vallourec firm Jean Laballery. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD]

BANI-SADR COMMENTS ON HOSTAGES, EVENTS IN IRAN

LD031508 Moscow TASS in English 1440 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 3, TASS--President A. Bani-Sadr of Iran has reaffirmed in an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH that the release of the American hostages fully depends on the United States. The U.S. administration, he said, cannot speed up the release of the hostages, if it recognizes as legitimate and meets the demands put forward by the Iranian people. [as received]

A normalization of our relations with the United States, Bani-Sadr pointed out, is possible only if the United States gives up its plans to restore its rule in Iran.

Noted Panamanian lawyer J.M. Vasquez representing Iran's interests in the case of the shah's extradition, told a press conference that the documents collected by him are quite sufficient for arresting and trying in court the deposed shah. These documents, he said, are irrefutable proof of crying abuses of power, murders and tortures, embezzlement and other crimes of the shah and his accomplices. J.M. Vasquez declared his intention to institute criminal proceedings against the former shah and demand his arrest immediately after returning to Panama.

The international commission for investigation into the crimes of the former shah and the activity of the United States in Iran is continuing its work in that country. One of the members of the commission, Syria's representative Adib al-Dawdi said after familiarizing himself with the documents presented to him by Iran's Ministry of Justice that the scale of violation of human rights in Iran during the rule of the shah's regime was truly appalling.

Leader of the Iranian revolution Ayatollah Khomeyni left yesterday the hospital where he had undergone a month long course of treatment in connection with cardiac insufficiency. Khomeyni addressed the Iranian people with a statement calling for the strengthening of national unity and active participation in the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 14.

KURDS' MEETING WITH IRANIAN LEADERS CONCLUDES

LD032100 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 3, TASS--Another round of talks between representatives of the central Government of Iran and a delegation of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan on the Kurdish problem ended here.

The newspaper ETTELAAT reports that the delegation of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan submitted for a discussion of the government a six-point draft on the granting of autonomy to the Iranian Kurds in the framework of united Iran. If the government consents, the draft must be included in the constitution as an appendage.

Under the draft, the autonomous Iranian Kurdistan must include districts with the predominantly Kurdish population. The draft also envisages recognition of the Kurdish language as the official language in the sphere of education and administrative management of Kurdistan.

In the aim of normalizing the situation in Kurdistan and successful holding of the subsequent talks, the delegation of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan suggested the release of political prisoners and annulment of the decision of the central government banning the activity of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan that was adopted last year.

IRANIAN PROSECUTOR 'DEMAND' U.S. DIPLOMAT FOR QUESTIONING

ID031338 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 3 Mar 80 ID

[Text] The Iranian prosecutor general has demanded that Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh allow the American diplomat, Victor Tomseth, to be questioned. When the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized on 4 November he and two other American diplomats were in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, where he is still kept.

The prosecutor general's demand is based on the fact that Victor Tomseth had connections with the Forqan underground terrorist group which assassinated prominent Iranian leaders.

The American diplomat's connections with this group, which includes former members of the shah's secret police SAVAK, were exposed by the Iranian students who are holding the American hostages. Documentary proof was shown to journalists on 20 February.

U.S. LINKS WITH IRAN'S 'FORQAN' GROUP REPORTED

ID031854 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT 3 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Tehran, March 3, TASS--Eight members of the rightwing extremist grouping Forqan were executed today in Tehran. They were charged with killing a number of political and religious leaders of the new Iranian regime. The reactionary organization set itself the aim of creating an atmosphere of chaos in the country with violence and terror and of liquidating the gains of the Iranian people.

The documents discovered in the United States' Embassy in Tehran show that the activity of terrorists was controlled and masterminded by agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. In this connection, Iran's Prosecutor-General Qoddusi made a request to Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh that V. Tomseth, one of the three American "diplomats" detained at the Foreign Ministry of Iran should give explanations about contacts of members of staff of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran with members of the terroristic grouping Forqan.

New documents that were discovered by Iranian students in the archives of the U.S. Embassy and were published here have become another evidence of the subversive activity. Of the U.S. special services in Iran's territory. According the these documents marked "secret" U.S. "diplomatic" personnel maintained close contacts with international organizations of coiners of false money. With their assistance, several million dollars of false foreign currency was brought into Iran, a spokesman of the Iranian students said that the documents published attest to the United States' unceremonious interference in the internal affairs of Iran and Washington's attempts to undermine the country's economy.

IRAN NATIONALIZES SHAH SUPPORTERS' HOUSING

ID031956 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 3 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Tehran, March 3, TASS--The Iranian Government has nationalized vacant houses and flats in Tehran which belonged to supporters of the shah regime.

About 50,000 flats will be sold to residents of the Iranian capital on easy terms. Preference will be given to families which suffered from the shah regime and to those who lost their relatives during the revolution.

INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET MUSLIM OFFICIAL BABAKHANOV CITED

LD031357 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Feb 80 p 19 LD

[KUNA report on "Conditions of Muslims in the Soviet Union and of Republics With an Islamic Majority"]

[Text] KUNA has discussed the conditions of Muslims in the Soviet Union, a subject that has always been on the minds of Muslims.

Barjas al-Barjas, chairman of the Board of Directors and director general of the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY [KUNA] has conducted a comprehensive dialog on the affairs of Muslims in the Soviet Union with the leading Islamic personality there, namely Ziyautdin Babakhanov, chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Babakhanov is well known in the Islamic world in general and in the Arab countries in particular and has ties of friendship and cooperation with many Islamic personalities and organizations worldwide.

Babakhanov said that in the Soviet Union there are more than 40 million Muslims who believe in God and that many of them pray in mosques. There are four Islamic administrations in the Soviet Union; these include the Islamic Administration for Central Asia under Mufti Babakhanov and consists of four republics; Kazakhstan, Uzbekstan, Turkmenistan and Tadzhikstan. Its headquarters is in Tashkent. In these regions there are more than 200 large mosques and 1,000 small ones. Several mosques were recently opened in Tashkent. More than 75 percent of the population in these republics are Muslims whose total number exceeds 20 million people. There is also a Muslim Administration for the Muslims of Siberia and the European Sector of the Soviet Union whose headquarters is in the town of Ufa. The towns that come under this administration include Moscow and Leningrad.

I have learned from the mufti of this administration that the number of mosques in the administration's area total 170 large ones and more than 500 small ones. The Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia includes more than 100 big mosques as well as a number of small ones. The headquarters of the Administration of Muslims in the Republic of Dagestan is located in Makhachkala. Although this republic includes many nationalities, the religion of the population as a whole is Islam and they all adhere strongly to it in that men, women, children and young people go to pray in mosques of which there are more than 60. A new mosque is opened every year.

Asked about the availability of copies of the Koran in mosques and how they are provided, Mufti Babakhanov said: We have printed copies of the Koran 5 times--10,000 copies each time. We distributed these to all the Muslims in the mosques. We have copies of the Koran which were printed before the revolution and others after it. Most of the Muslims prefer the Kazan edition because it is very clear. We have also had copies of the Koran printed in Bokhara and Egypt. The Muslims in our country, thank God, now read our own editions of the Koran as well as copies we import from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

When I remarked that during my visit to the Leningrad mosque last year I did not find complete copies of the Koran but only some torn parts. Babakhanov said that Muslims, unfortunately, keep copies of the Koran in their homes and do not leave them in the mosque.

When asked if there was a theological school that teaches the Islamic religion, he said: Yes, thank God. There are also specialized schools. There is a theological school in Bokhara which was opened during the war in 1945. Later we opened a religious institute in Tashkent to which students come after graduating from secondary schools in order to specialize in religious studies--the Koran and Islamic traditions. Then we send whomever wants to continue his studies to Arab universities.

When asked whether the Soviet Government helps in sending scholars abroad on scholarships, Babakhanov replied in the negative. He said that the Arabic quarterly magazine which publishes in Tashkent is still being published every 3 months. He said: We could publish it monthly if it were not for the lack of editors and Arabic language specialists. When our students return from Libya and Jordan shortly we hope they will be able to help us publish it monthly.

With regard to the freedom of worship in the Soviet Union, Babakhanov said that Article 52 of the Constitution of the Soviet state insures the freedom of worship for all citizens.

When asked to comment on the situation in Afghanistan, Babakhanov said: I am not, in any case, a politician. But we hear from the radio and the press that a joint defense pact was signed between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in 1978 and that the Soviet Government is giving assistance at the request of Afghanistan which is a poor country afflicted with illiteracy and disease. It is unfortunate that the Muslims have remembered their brothers in Afghanistan only since the recent events when the Soviet Union took steps in implementation of the treaty concluded between the two countries. I visited Afghanistan about 25 years ago when I was on my way to India. I stayed in Kabul 3 days during which I met with ulemas and students. I found that they were ignorant about our conditions just as we were ignorant about theirs. When I told them that we have schools they said they wish they could come to us but, unfortunately, they were not allowed to do so.

When asked if he wishes to address a word to his Muslim brothers in the Arab and Islamic world, Mufti Babakhanov said: You know that Islam began in the Arab world. We the Soviet people, and particularly the Muslims, love the Arabs for having taught us religion, science and religious literature which we learned from the Arab countries. In the old days our scholars came from Samarkand but current Islamic learning comes from the Arab countries. We have a strong feeling of affinity with, and entmusiasm for, our Arab brothers. I have visited all the Arab countries and invited many Arab scholars to visit our country. Ties of amity between us and our Arab brothers have been consolidated. We hope that their countries will prosper and unite, that the Arabs will speak with one voice and their prestige will be heightened. We are proud of the Arabs' unity but we are sorry that some of the tendentious ones are attempting to divide them. Our Islamic religion orders us to unite and to cling to God but, unfortunately, some of the tendentious ones pursue the policy of divide and rule. We pray God to help our Arab brothers to regain the great dominance which they had in the past ages.

Al-Barjas then spoke about Kuwait's adherence to the principles of the magnanimous religion, its care for the values of right and justice and its desire for close cooperation with the world's countries, particularly the developing countries in the interest of all mankind. He also informed Mufti Babakhanov, at the request of Kuwaiti minister of Awaqf and Islamic affairs, of Kuwait's readiness to offer any suitable assistance to serve the Muslim people in the Soviet Union.

In reply, Mufti Babakhanov expressed his thanks and praised the Kuwaiti Government's noble attitude that stems from love, peace and fraternity. He said: I would like to give you the good news that I have translated into the Uzbek language Imam at-Tarmadhi's book "Qualities of the Prophet" which we will print in Tashkent. I have also translated Imam al-Bukhari's book "The Singular Literature". I have obtained the government's approval to print it and to distribute it among the Muslims. This, God willing, will take place before convening the conference to celebrate the 15th Hegira century which will be held in Tashkent from 9 to 11 September and will be attended by journalists from the Arab and Islamic countries. I am glad to invite you to attend it. A major seminar was held in the town of Dushanbe in Tadzhikstan a year ago in order to prepare for this conference. A number of Soviet Islamic judges and ulemas and myself are now in Moscow in order to prepare for this conference.

Barjas al-Barjas told Babakhanov that he will convey this message to the minister of Awaqf and Islamic affairs and that the Kuwaiti media will no doubt be interested in this conference. Babakhanov said: We will extend an invitation to the minister as well as to the press and media. I will be very glad to meet the minister and you at our great Islamic gathering. We will write to his excellency the minister to ask for some books that we need for studies. We will also translate "The Action Book" which consists of 16 volumes and I myself saw in Ad-Dahiriyah school in Damascus. There is also the book "The Proven Antidote" which is an amazing and very rare book which has not been printed. I have written to the mufti of Syria asking for a copy so that we can print it in the Soviet Union shortly.

Mufti Babakhanov has been invited to attend the World Conference on the Message of Mosques which will be held in Saudi Arabia on 2 March. He said that he will try to attend it if his state of health permits so as to participate in this conference with his brother Muslims such as Shaykh 'Abdallah an-Nuri whom he described as an eloquent man and a friend. Babakhanov has invited An-Nuri to visit the Soviet Union and An-Nuri will accept the invitation.

VOLSKIY REFUTES 'TWO SUPERPOWERS' CONCEPT IN MIDEAST CONTEXT

LD031009 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 8, Signed to Press 22 Feb 80 pp 6-7 LD

[Article by D. Volskiy under the rubric "Middle East": "A Far-Fetched Doctrine and Real Threat"]

[Text] The doctrine of the "two superpowers" has recently been given wide coverage in the press in certain Middle East countries, in particular Iran, and also Arab states of the Persian Gulf. Its local supporters maintain that the "giants of West and East" are equally "hostile toward the values of Islam." They urge "oppressed peoples" to free themselves from the "influence of great world forces." It is not difficult, of course, to realize what "forces" they mean. You need only watch, for example, Tehran Television programs: Several times in an evening there appears on the screen a representation of "uncle Sam" and the "Russian Bear" struggling for supremacy in the Middle East.

Life itself has proved many times over how wrong it is to equate the policies of the United States and USSR. The Middle East peoples have had the opportunity to see for themselves that, in contrast to the West, the Soviet Union is not seeking their resources or bridgeheads on their soil and that it supports these people's liberation aspirations by virtue of the internationalist nature of its policy. "Moscow's enmity" toward Islam was the fabrication ridiculed recently by as authoritative a figure in the Muslim world as the chairman of the Afghan Council of Ulemas. Following a trip to the Soviet Union he said that Islam is respected here "even more than in Saudi Arabia." It was neither the experience of the Muslim countries nor their national interests which were the breeding ground in the Middle East for the "doctrine of the superpowers." Quite the opposite: The fact is that it is not easy at the moment for everybody there always to discern genuine national interests. The rapid changes in Iran and Afghanistan and the collapse of age-old social structures have raised a veritable "sandstorm" in the world outlook of entire social groups. We are also aware of the dual nature of the positions of so-called "middle strata," primarily the national bourgeoisie in developing countries. On the one hand, they are against imperialism and against the dominance of transnational companies who are prepared, without a moment's hesitation, to stifle the traditional "bazaar traders"; but who, on the other hand, fear the "radicalization" of the masses. Moreover, those bourgeois circles who suffer from class blindness are sometimes inclined to forget that sociopsychological changes are a process governed by the entire complex of internal factors and that they cannot be implanted by an outside agency, something the Soviet Union has never tried to do and is not trying to do since it is a principled opponent of the "export of revolution."

But the "two superpowers" concept is clearly an "ideological export model" brought to the Middle East from afar. Its origin is no secret: The Beijing hegemonists got this doctrine from Western bourgeois ideologists around a decade ago, developed and shaped it and adapted it to their needs. On the pretext of countering the "superpowers," Beijing embarked on a path which placed the ideals of the Chinese revolution in grave jeopardy and led to an alliance with imperialism and reaction. Suffice it to recall that only 6 months before the overthrow of the shah of Iran he was paid a friendly visit by Hua Guofeng. The visit was an ostentatious one, advising the shah to stand firm and increase his contribution to the "defense" of the entire Persian Gulf zone. As-Sadat too tended to refer to the "doctrine of the superpowers" when he was trying to justify his apostasy. So the Muslim world has already encountered this perfidious invention of the Maoists and their imperialist mentors.

In the present situation, however, it may be particularly damaging to the Middle East peoples. First of all because more than ever before these peoples are in need of cohesion, collaboration and--frankly--the backing of the "great world forces" that support the struggle for national independence as the threat to their independence and security is becoming increasingly real.

It is the Middle East region which has, because of its oil resources and geographical location, become the key zone. Control of this area, imperialist strategists believe, can provide imperialism with convenient positions in its global hegemony aspirations. This is why Arab and Iranian oil is currently talked about as if it belonged not to these peoples but to the capitalist West, primarily the United States, which would appear to have the "right" to take any measures to insure "access" to this foreign storehouse. There are attempts to effectively deprive the Arabs, Iranians and other Middle East inhabitants of the right not only to dispose of their national resources but also to choose paths of development in keeping with their traditions and desire for progress.

For this purpose a whole complex of measures has been elaborated, in particular propaganda measures designed to blacken the Soviet Union and whitewash the United States. But who believes Washington's attempts to portray itself as the "defender of Islam," when only a few months ago the authors of leading articles in American newspapers were voicing for all to hear their dreams of seeing "long lists of ayatollahs and mullahs" condemned to death? Now they prefer not to repeat these threats aloud although this does not mean they have renounced them. Not for nothing did S. Bakhtiar, the shah's last premier, boast that he "gathers supporters all over the country." What is this if not an Iranian variation on the "fifth column" dispatched to Afghanistan? Imperialist agents are operating in other Middle East countries too.

Attempts are being made from outside to squeeze this vast region into a kind of strategic triangle: The Israeli-Egyptian alliance in the west, the China, Pakistan and United States alliance being formed in the east and, in the south, the system of American bases set up or being set up in the Indian Ocean, centered on Diego Garcia Island. There are even plans for the actual occupation of the oilfields and even threats to use "tactical nuclear weapons" there.

Is it not clear, under these conditions, who the attempts to transplant the false "superpowers" concept to Muslim soil might benefit and why?

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN COMMENTS ON MIDEAST 'PROBLEM'

LD030920 Moscow TASS in English 0835 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Paris, March 3, TASS--It is impossible to ensure a lasting and just peace in the Middle East without the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories and full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people including their right to self-determination. This was stated by King Husayn of Jordan in an interview with the French radio.

The Middle East problem can be solved only through holding negotiations with the participation of all the sides concerned, including the Soviet Union and the United Nations Organisation, which would allow to create a foundation for establishing a lasting and just peace in that region before it is too late, King Husayn stressed.

Having condemned Egypt which betrayed the interests of Arab nations, the king of Jordan assessed the tripartite American-Egyptian-Israeli talks on the future of the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip as an attempt to grant certain rights under Israeli domination to some of the inhabitants of those Israeli-occupied territories.

King Husayn stressed that Jordan has no wish to take part in the tripartite talks, as they are being held without the participation of the sides concerned and solely in the interests of the United States, Egypt and Israel.

REPORTAGE ON PLO OFFICIALS' REPLIES TO CARTER REMARKS

'Arafat Statement

LD011844 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 1, TASS--Neither U.S. President Carter nor anybody else has the right to decide on his own the question of to be or not to be for an independent Palestinian state.

This has been stated here by Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat replying to the recent pronouncements by the head of the American administration that the United States rejects the idea of establishing an independent Palestinian state and that it does not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization. Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that nobody would be able to break the will of the Arab Palestinian people to wage the struggle for the right to decide their future themselves. The time, when imperialist monopolies decided the destinies of peoples, has gone never to return, he said. And if American statesmen of the Brzezinski type say "farewell to the Palestine Liberation Organization", we answer them "farewell to the American interests in the Middle East". This reply found its concrete manifestation in the victory of the Iranian revolution which drove Americans out of Iran. The same lot is in for them in other countries.

An independent Palestinian state will be formed despite the declarations by Carter and other American statesmen, Yasir 'Arafat stressed in conclusion. The Camp David agreements are a real threat to the Arabs, since manifested in them is the desire of American imperialism to enslave the Middle East and turn it into its military springboard. This has been stated at the Third National Congress of the General Union of the Palestinian Women by General Secretary of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine George Habash.

In the complicated conditions, when world imperialism and Zionism with the assistance of local reaction exert an ever growing pressure upon Arab countries, he stressed, great significance assumes the alliance of the Arab national liberation forces and, specifically, Palestinian revolution, with the sinere and true friends--the countries of the socialist community, in the vanguard of which is the great Soviet Union. In this is the earnest of the victory in the struggle against imperialist and Zionist conspiracies in the Middle East.

Abu-Maysar Statement

LD271012 Moscow TASS in English 0851 GMT 27 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Damascus, February 27, TASS--President Carter's latest hostile statements against the Palestine Liberation Organization have again shown the anti-Arab nature of American policy, Abd al-Muhsin abu-Maysar, PLO official representative, said here. He stressed that these statements expose the falsehood of the "concern" which Washington has been intensively showing of late for Islam and the Moslems. Abu-Maysar condemned the stand of the United States which stubbornly refuses to recognize the PLO and rejects the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and creation of an independent state of its own. We intend to continue the struggle against the American-Zionist policy in general and the Camp David plot in particular, Abu-Maysar said in conclusion. We shall resolutely expose the aggressive U.S. policy vis-a-vis the Islamic countries which is aimed at imposing American domination on the Islamic states and undermining their national independence and sovereignty.

ANDREYEV COMMENTS ON SOVIET-MOROCCAN RELATIONS

LD031258 Moscow in French to North Africa 2000 GMT 2 Mar 80 LD

[Nikolay Andreyev commentary: "The Moroccan People's National Day"]

[Text] Tomorrow is Morocco's national day. Thanks to its brave fight, the Moroccan people succeeded in wiping out the colonial protectorate regime 24 years ago and embarked on the path of independent development. This was an important victory of the national liberation forces which thus cast a serious blow at the positions of colonialism in North Africa.

Under independence, the Moroccan people attained notable successes in the development of the economy, national culture and education. The policy of Moroccanization and the liquidation of foreign land holdings led to the limitation of the position of foreign capital in several branches of the national economy. On the other hand, the country has many unresolved problems, such as raising the standard of living of the broad masses of the population, the solution of unemployment, industrialization and the in-depth transformation of agriculture.

The solution of these problems is complicated by the existence of the problem of Western Sahara, which is diverting considerable means from the country's economic and social development to military purposes. The machinations of foreign monopolies, which are trying to maintain their control over the key branches of Moroccan economy, have a negative effect too. As all this does not contribute to stability, it has its repercussions on the material situation of many categories of the population and leads to social conflicts. The Soviet people sympathetically followed the Moroccan people's fight for liberation. Our country has always demonstrated its solidarity with the Moroccans' just cause by lending it political and moral support, in particular at the United Nations. The USSR was one of the first states to recognize independent Morocco.

Moroccan-Soviet relations are characterized by stability. In recent years they led to varied cooperation despite the difference in economic and social systems. This is quite logical, because the USSR bases its relations with Morocco--as with the other developing countries--on the principles of equality of rights, the mutual respect of sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual advantage. Speaking about peoples freed from the colonial yoke, Leonid Brezhnev said in his election speech of 22 February that they, no less than the socialist countries, need a firm peace, strict respect of the sovereignty of states and the rights of peoples and genuinely egalitarian international relations. It is on this basis that we develop our good relations and our mutually advantageous cooperation with many states in Asia, Africa and Latin America, be that state great India or little Benin, republican Algeria or monarchistic Jordan, neighboring Turkey or distant Brazil.

This is absolutely true as far as relations between the USSR and Morocco are concerned. It is impossible not to see the similarity of two countries' positions on many international problems. These are, above all, the fundamental problems of our era which are the strengthening of peace and international security, the deepening of detente, disarmament and the elimination of the remnants of imperialism and racism. At the same time, the USSR and Morocco have differing views on several problems, such as that of Western Sahara and the situation in the Near and Middle East. However, this cannot and must not impede the development of cooperation between the USSR and Morocco.

With the USSR's cooperation, Morocco has constructed several hydrotechnical and power projects. Soviet geologists have undertaken surveys in various parts of the country for the prospecting of mineral deposits. More than 250 Moroccan students are studying at Soviet institutes of higher education. The USSR is one of Morocco's traditional trading partners. For some years, the USSR has been the largest buyer of Moroccan oranges. The annual volume of our trade exchanges hits the impressive figure of $120 million. Important prospects for the economic relations between the two countries are based on the implementation of a long-term agreement on cooperation on phosphates, a new long-term trade agreement as well and on an agreement on maritime fishing. Being mutually advantageous, these agreements are the basis of a stable and long-term development of Soviet-Moroccan relations.

On their national day, the Soviet people send the Moroccan people good wishes for success and prosperity.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON RHODESIAN ELECTIONS

Mugabe Ready for Coalition

LD031954 Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 3, TASS--The counting of ballots of African voters who took part in the general parliamentary election on February 27-29 started today in Rhodesia. This parliamentary election is to conclude the process of Rhodesia's transition to independence.

According to reports from Salisbury, about 2.7 million ballots were placed in ballot-boxes. This means that 93.6 per cent out of 2.8 million citizens having the right to vote participated in the election. The press points out that the voters were much more active as compared with April of last year when a mockery of election was organized by the illegal white minority regime, that was then in office, and its African puppets. The UPI agency writes that the number of voters in the present election was one million larger than last year. Even the British group for the observance over the holding of the election admits that the high level of activity means a manifestation of the people's will for peace and independence.

Robert Mugabe, the president of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), that is included in the Zimbabwe Partiotic Front, expressed the confidence of the victory of the national patriotic forces. He said that according to the estimates of the statistical service of the party, ZANU earned over 50 out of 80 places allocated in the country's future parliament for Africans. At the same time, Robert Mugabe did not rule out that in a number of places the British colonial authorities might have falsified the results of the voting.

He proclaimed the readiness of ZANU to enter a governmental coalition with the other wing of the Patriotic Front, ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union], led by Joshua Nkomo. We were waging the armed struggle together. We took a joint stand at the London conference and we shall be building together an independent and free state of Zimbabwe. The foreign policy of the government that will be formed by the Patriotic Front, will be built on the principles of non-alignment, of mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries, particularly with socialist countries, Robert Mugabe stressed.

Mugabe Victory

LD040833 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 4, TASS--The returns of the general parliamentary elections for the Africans held on February 27-29 have been announced in Zimbabwe today.

An overwhelming majority of seats in parliament--57 out of 100--has been won by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Robert Mugabe. It has thus won the right to form a cabinet. The other wing of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front--the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) headed by Joshua Nkomo--has won 20 seats.

A crushing defeat has been suffered by the grouping of former "prime minister" of the puppet "government" Muzorewa, which will have only three seats. Twenty seats in parliament have been won at the elections held earlier for whites by the Rhodesian Front of racialist Smith.

The mass of people has expressed support for the program of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front providing for a course for true independence and for carrying out reforms in the interests of the entire people, nonalignment and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries.

The young independent state is making its first steps inconditions of a growing danger in aggression from the racialist regime of the South African Republic and its imperialist allies.

Mugabe To Form Government

LD041216 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 4, TASS--Lord Soames, the British governor in Rhodesia, today invited Robert Mugabe, the leader of ZANU, the Zimbabwe African National Union, who had gained a sweeping victory at the general parliamentary elections, to form the first Government of Zimbabwe, dispatches from Salisbury report.

PONOMAREV, ULYANOVSKIY MEET WITH CONGOLESE DELEGATION

LD291934 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 29, TASS--Today at the CPSU CC, a meeting was held between alternate Politbureau member, CPSU CC secretary Boris Ponomarev and Deputy Chief of CPSU CC International Department Rostislav Ulyanovskiy and a delegation of the Congolese Party of Labor headed by Jean-Pierre Chisterchikaya. Head of the delegation submitted a message to the General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev from Chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Party of Labour, President of the People's Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou-N'Guesso.

The meeting participants exchanged information on preparations for the festivities to mark the 110th anniversary of Lenin's birth. Readiness was reaffirmed to consolidate further the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of the Congo, between the CPSU and the Congolese Party of Labour in 1980-1981.

During the discussion of the topical issues of the international situation, special attention was given to the need for consolidating the cohesion of all the consistent champions of a lasting peace, international security, and national sovereignty of the peoples in order to give a worthy rebuff to the course of U.S. imperialists and their henchmen of whipping up a war hysteria, the whipping up of the arms race, the expansion of the hegemonist interference in the internal affairs of countries. This is evidenced by actions of imperialists and their agents in Iran, Zimbabwe and other countries. Support was expressed for the Afghan revolution and the Afghan people's desire to defend its freedom and independence from imperialist interference.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

DISSIDENT KOPELEV ON OFFICIAL, MOSCOW MOVES AGAINST HIM

LD030949 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Feb 80 p 8 LD

[Daniel Vernet Moscow dispatch: "Dissident Writer Lev Kopelev Summoned Before Moscow Prosecutor"; first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction]

[Excerpts] Soviet dissident writer Lev Kopelev, 67, recently attacked in the official press, has to appear before the Moscow prosecutor "before the end of the week," it has been learned in the Soviet capital. This summons is reportedly linked to the inquiry which the authorities are currently conducting into the review POISKI, several leaders of which have been arrested recently.

The writer sees a direct link between the new attacks against him, the sanctions against Sakharov and his defense of the academician. "A new cold wave is sweeping down on our country," he said. "Cold war outside has always had as corollary a new freeze at home." He does not understand why a newspaper has resumed accusations against him which are 35 years old and for which he spent 10 years in a labor camp. Freed in 1954, he was rehabilitated long after, first by the CPSU Control Commission, of which he was a member until his expulsion in 1968, and then by a court. "They use every means available," Kopelev stated. "If they are dealing with Andrey Sakharov, as you know, anything is possible. There is no limit to it. For the first time in a long while I fear for him."

When asked how he sees the situation developing, Kopelev smiles nonetheless: "35 years ago, I believed I knew what would be happening in a century, now I do not know what tomorrow will bring. After what we have just gone through anything is possible. We have nothing left but hope."

NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR INTENSIFIED ATHEIST EDUCATION

AU031937 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 27 Feb 80 p 2 AU

[Article by V. Lutayev, party committee secretary at the Ukrainian Water Resources Engineering Institute in Rovno: "Atheist Convictions for Students"]

[Excerpts] To live and to work in the Leninist way... what a noble goal it is! What diversity of strivings, creative accomplishments and moral virtues it implies! And what gratifying field it offers for ideological and labor tempering and for the intellectual development of our students.

V.I. Lenin teaches that the construction of communism requires the education of "all-round developed and all-round trained people." The institute's party organization considers it as its utmost duty to put this, Lenin's precept, into effect while fostering among future specialists an active position in life, shaping their Marxist-Leninist world outlook and strong ideological foundations necessary for the educator and organizer of the collective and for the propagandist of communist ideas. While undergoing training in a higher educational establishment the future specialist should also acquire, in particular, profound scientific-materialist erudition and firm atheist convictions.

This point is particularly topical at higher educational establishments in west Ukrainian oblasts. Accountable for that is the fact that those oblasts used to be a center of reactionary and anti-people activity of the Uniate and the Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox churches that maintained close relations with Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists and, during the Great Fatherland War, also with the German fascists. Oppression exerted in the past by religious communities adversely influenced the shaping of a world outlook and kept alive religious and nationalist superstitions in the consciousness of a part of the population. Individual manifestations of this occur even now.

While working out a comprehensive plan for educational work calculated on the whole period of training, the party organization has attached appropriate attention to the atheist education of students. We start our work in this field from the study of the level of ideological culture and atheist convictions among young men and women. The institute for sociological research studies the effectiveness of a comprehensive attitude to ideoeducational work among students. Without tackling in detail data provided by this research, I would like to state that this data has enabled the party committee, the rectorate and public organizations to pinpoint the most sensitive spots in the system of education, including the atheist one, and to outline measures for its improvement.

Sociological polls carried out at the institute have shown that the majority of students questioned characterized themselves as irreligious, but a portion of them were unable to state precisely if they were convinced atheists. In this connection it is useful to bear in mind F. Engels' dictum that atheism as a mere negation of religion is by itself worthless.

The examination of the ideological values and orientations of a part of questioned students has shown that they were young people who exhibited a certain indifference to the problems of religion and atheism and interest in unwholesome exotism (the practice of carrying crosses, passion for religious attributes and boasting about the musical works on Biblical subjects fashionable in the West). Such students may participate in religious ceremonies without giving application of a religious cult significance. Those qualities are undeniable evidence of inconsistency and split personality, and consequently of ideological unsteadiness. Under certain conditions in life, such young people are apt to err in their decisions and acts. Therefore, the task is to make of each student a convinced atheist, and for this purpose it is necessary, as the CPSU Central Committee decision on further improving ideological and political-educational work points out, to outline and implement concrete measures to intensify atheist education and to increase the responsibility of communists and komsomols in the struggle against religious superstitions.

ZIMYANIN ATTENDS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEETING

LD041000 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 4 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 4, TASS--A general meeting of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR opened in Moscow today. The meeting will sum up the results of the work conducted by the academy over the last year. The meeting is attended by the country's most prominent scientists. Anatoliy Aleksandrov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, opened the meeting. Georgiy Skryabin, chief learned secretary of the academy, made a report on the academy's work.

The general meeting is attended by Mikhail Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

UKRAINIAN SUPREME SOVIET SESSION CONVENED FOR 25 MAR

AU041041 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 29 Feb 80 p 1 AU

[Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium decree convening Ukrainian Supreme Soviet]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to convene the first session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet of the 10th convocation on 25 March 1980 in Kiev.

[Signed] A. Vatchenko, chairman, and Ya. Kolotukha, secretary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium. Kiev City, 28 February 1980.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

ACADEMICIAN NEKRASOV ON WEST SIBERIA'S PROSPECTS

LD291140 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 29, TASS--"Tyumen Region is to supply this year one third, and in ten years's time, about a half of the fuel consumed in the Soviet Union. This is a top priority objective of a our long-term program for developing West Siberia's resources," Academician Nikolay Nekrasov, chairman of the Council for the Study of the Productive Forces of the USSR, said to a TASS correspondent. Our plans, he said, rest on high rates of growth of fuel production (especially oil and gas production), in areas east of the Urals. If in 1965, this region produced a million tons of oil, the figure for 1970 was already 31 million tons and for 1975--145 million tons. Oil output this year is expected to amount to 300-310 million tons. The annual increment in gas output in recent years has been approximately 25 billion cubic metres. The CPSU and the government have decided to establish in West Siberia the country's main fuel and energy base, this is reflected in the basic guidelines now being drawn up for the development of the national economy in the next five year plan period (1981-1985).

The Council for the Study of the Productive Forces has defined priorities in the economic development of the region, Academician Nekrasov said. The most important task now is to increase deliveries of drilling rigs, pipes and other equipment to oil fields since we are planning to prospect for and develop new deposits.

The transport problem is also very important one: The main railway line in West Siberia, the one between Tyumen and Surgut, is no longer able to cope with the increased flow of freight going to the oil fields. It is necessary to open new river transport lines on the Ob, the Irtysh and other waterways in the taiga. The development of new fuel deposits calls for stable power supply. In the forthcoming five year period, it is planned to build in West Siberia high voltage power transmission lines to reach dozens of oil and gas deposits. The first to be built is the power transmission line from the Surgut thermal power station, which is to reach a capacity of 2.5 million kilowatts this year, to the Urengoy gas-bearing province. The line will be commissioned in 1981.

In drawing up the plan for the next five years the Soviet planners took account of the fact that West Siberia's development involves enormous expenses because of the specifics of its natural and climatic conditions. Indeed, expenses there are truly unprecedented, Academician Nekrasov said. But the significance of the end results is so great that the country does not stop at great capital investments. They are recouped here in less than a year.

RASHIDOV ADDRESSES 7 FEBRUARY UZBEK AKTIV MEETING

LD031029 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 8 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[UZTAG report: "We Will Build Ahead of Schedule--Assimilate Ahead of Schedule. From a Meeting of the Republic Party and Economic Aktiv"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the republic party and economic aktiv was held in Tashkent 7 February. Taking part in it were obkom, gorkom and raykom secretaries, chairmen and deputy chairmen of the Karakalpakskaya ASSR Council of Ministers, oblispolkoms, gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms, leaders of ministries, departments, construction, installation and planning organizations, and construction materials industry and construction industry enterprises, leading workers in construction production and workers of trade union and Komsomol organizations and people's control organs.

The meeting was opened by Sh. R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee.

The meeting examined the work results of collectives of construction, installation and planning organizations and construction materials industry and construction industry enterprises in 1979 and their tasks for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of their 1980 socialist pledges in the light of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum decisions. The report was delivered by A. A. Khodzhayev, secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee.

Sh. R. Rashidov delivered a speech at the meeting.

SHEVARDNADZE AT PARTY, GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DISCUSSION

LD031035 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 12 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "Shock Tempo for a Year of Shock Work"]

[Excerpt] The successes which inspire us, the tasks which place us under an obligation and the reserves which must be sought in all sectors of the national economy and put at the service of production were mentioned at a joint session of the Georgian CP Central Committee and Georgian SSR Council of Ministers which discussed the results of the fulfillment of the plan for the republic's economic and social development for this January.

Z.A. Chkheidze, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, delivered the report. Z.A. Pataridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, and G.V. Koblin, second secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, delivered speeches at the session. The results of the session were summed up by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee.

GEORGIAN CONFERENCE ON LABOR DISCIPLINE, PRODUCTION RESERVES

LD031041 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 7 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "All Reserves Must Be Put at the Service of Production"]

[Excerpts] A conference has been held at the Georgian CP Central Committee which has discussed questions of consolidating labor discipline and revealing additional reserves for the further development of the republic's national economy. The results of the conference were summed up by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee.

FUEL, RESOURCES SAVING COUNCIL FORMED IN GEORGIA

LD040809 [Editorial Report LD] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 16 February 1980 carried on page 2 a 1,800-word GRUZINFORM article by Candidate of Technical Sciences T. Kopaleishvili, chief of the Georgian SSR Gosplan Economics and National Economic Planning Research Institute norm-setting methodology and organization section, and Candidate of Economic Sciences D. Chomakhidze, chief of the heavy industry section, published under the rubric "Policy of Thrift-Management Discpline" and the headline "The Effect of Norm-Setting."

The article says that "growing demands for fuel and energy and the increase in expenditure on the extraction and transportation of fuel and energy resources demand that effective measures be adopted to improve their utilization." Although much has already been done in Georgia, the article says, a great deal remains to be done in order to meet "the requirements of the time." The article says that a "decisive role in rectifying the existing situation is played by the scientifically substantiated setting of norms for the expenditure of fuel and energy resources." The article carries the following passage:

"The 12 July 1979 CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution 'On Improving Planning and Stepping Up the Impact of the Economic Mechanism on Raising Production Efficiency and Work Quality' is of great importance in solving the problem. Henceforth the role of plan targets in the average reduction of fuel and energy expenditure is considerably greater. The introduction of this indicator strengthens the orientation of enterprises toward reducing the material intensiveness of output as one of the most important criteria of production efficiency.

"The resolution instructs the USSR Gosplan, with the participation of interested organizations, to elaborate measures for the rational utilization of fuel and energy and the improvement of the setting of norms for their utilization.

"A republic council headed by Z.A. Chkheidze, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, has been set up in the Georgian SSR to improve the resolution of questions relating to fuel, energy and also metal, cement and timber saving."

ROMANOV AT SOSNOVYY BOR MEETING CELEBRATING LENINGRAD AES

LD031323 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[LENTASS report: "The High Assessment Provides Inspiration: Leningrad AES Power and Construction Workers Are Fully Determined To Reach New Heights"]

[Excerpts] Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has cordially congratulated those involved in the construction of the Leningrad AES on their great labor victory.

A meeting was held yesterday in Sosnovyy Bor devoted to this significant event.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's greetings were read out by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom. On behalf of the Leningrad Party Organization and all Leningraders he expressed profound gratitude to Leonid Ilich for the high assessment of the results of the labor by those involved in the construction of the Leningrad AES.

G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom, visited the third unit of the Leningrad V.I. Lenin AES, talked to workers and installation workers and asked about the power workers' working and living condition and the fulfillment of the comprehensive plan for the collective's economic and social development.

A conversation with members of the gorkom Bureau took place at the Sosnovyy Bor CPSU Gorkom. The discussion concerned ways of raising efficiency and work quality, developing municipal amenities and providing the power workers' young town with services and amenities.

KIRILENKO TOURS PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS, OTHER SITES

LD031527 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[LENTASS report: "A.O. Kirilenko in Leningrad"]

[Text] Comrade Andrey Pavlovich Kirilenko, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Leningrad Sunday [17 February] for meetings with voters. He has been nominated as candidate deputy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet for Leningrad's Politekhnicheskiy Electoral Okrug No 123 by the working people of the Svetlana Association and the M.I. Kalinin Polytechnic Institute. His candidacy has been supported by collectives of the Pozitron Association and other enterprises, and also by the representatives of labor collectives and social organizations at an okrug pre-election meeting. A.P. Kirilenko has consented to run for the Politekhnicheskiy Electoral Okrug.

At Pulkovo Airport Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee A.P. Kirilenko was met by G.V. Romanov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Leningradskiy Obkom; members of the Bureau of Leningradskiy Obkom; secretaries of Leningrad Gorkom; responsible party and soviet workers, and representatives of the labor collectives of the Politekhnicheskiy Electoral Okrug.

At the Smolnyy Institute there was a conversation with the leaders of the Leningrad Party Organization. There was talk of the ways to further boost production efficiency and work quality in light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the November (1979) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and of the policy speeches delivered by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

A.P. Kirilenko visited the Svetlana Association of electronic instrument making, whose collective was the first to draw up a comprehensive economic and social development plan which has permitted a substantial increase in labor productivity and in the volumes and quality of the output being produced. He chatted with workers, engineers and employees and with association leaders and displayed an interest in questions pertaining to the links between science and the production, life and day-to-day existence of the Svetlana workers. A.P. Kirilenko looked over the shops and addressed the instrument makers, heartily congratulating them on the award of the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee for the results of the 1979 all-union socialist competition, and wishing the working people both new successes in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the November (1979) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, and also the successful fulfillment of the comprehensive plan for the collective's economic and social development.

The candidate deputy toured the construction sites of the Vyborgskiy, Vasileostrovskiy, Moskovskiy and other rayons of the city, and visited the grand sports arena and the Svetlana Association's Palace of Culture currently under construction. He familiarized himself with the construction of vocational and technical colleges, medical institutions and service enterprises.

At the Piskarevskoye memorial cemetary A.P. Kirilenko honored the memory of the courageous Leningraders who fell during the blockade and laid flowers. Flowers were also placed at the monument to the city's heroic defenders on Victory Square.

At the S.M. Kirov Academy Theater of Opera and Ballet A.P. Kirilenko attended a performance of the ballet "Ballad of the Hussar."

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 28 FEB-3 MAR

LD030148/LD040344 [Editorial Report LD] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 28 February to 3 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item:

28 February

Repairs to irrigation equipment have been completed in Saratovskaya Oblast, where the irrigated area will be increased to 370,000 hectares this year. Preparation of corn seed for spring sowing is nearing completion in the Ukraine. Most of the seeds are in the top category. The Ukraine's needs are already provided for. Corn is being grown here on 380,000 hectares by the industrial method, with no intermediate work between sowing and harvest. Almost all the demand for early strains has been met. Corn seed is also being supplied to other republics, e.g. 65,000 tons to the RSFSR. A total of 86,000 tons is going to other republics. (0200 GMT)

About 3,000 new tractors and grain combine harvesters will be delivered to Kurganskaya Oblast this year. The first big batch has already been sent to the farms. In the current 5-year plan, the Zauralye tractor pool has been almost half renewed. The new machines include about 1,500 powerful Kirov tractors, plus trucks, corn-harvesting combines, sowing and tilling equipment. (0600 GMT)

29 February

The virgin lands are preparing for the spring. As is known, last year's harvest was very difficult. Bad weather in the autumn spun out the harvest time, while the early winter prevented farmers in some oblasts from fully carrying out the autumn plowing. For this reason, in the spring the amount of fieldwork will be considerably greater than usual, and all hope is being put in the powerful Kirov tractors. Unfortunately, however, their repairs are going at a very slow pace. The greatest number of unrepaired K-700 tractors are in farms in Turgayskaya and Kokchetavskaya oblasts. The Atbasar repair works of the State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture [selkhoztekhnika] in Tselinogradskaya Oblast is failing to keep to the plan for repairing units and assemblies for these machines. There are also other shortcomings in the organization of repairs, which were noted at a session held by the republican operational headquarters for preparations for the spring. The participants mapped out measures which will enable the backlog to be cleared and preparations for the spring to be made in good time in this, the final year of the 5-year plan. (1600 GMT)

Across the country as a whole, the overhaul of equipment is proceeding in a more organized fashion than in previous years. The readiness of tractors and tilling and seeding machines for the spring is higher at the moment than last year. Many combines and harvesters have been repaired. What is disquieting is the preparation of K-700 tractors, as in Kazakhstan. In all, more than 20,000 such machines are lined up for repair on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and it is after all precisely these powerful tractors that now perform the main work on the farms of the steppe regions of Kazakhstan, Siberia and the Urals. The latest session of the all-union operational headquarters for material and technical supplies to agriculture noted the poor organization of repairs of high-energy tractors. [item continues]

There is a shortage of spares supplied by the Leningrad Kirovskiy Zavod Association and the Yaroslavl Motornyy Zavod. Supplies of components are being delayed by the Gorkiy motor works, Odessapochvomash and Altayselmash. The all-union headquarters adopted the requisite measures to speed up deliveries of spares, new machines and other material and technical equipment for the spring fieldwork. (1600 GMT)

1 March

Yuzhnosakhalinsk: Farmworkers in Sakhalinskaya Oblast have taken 1 million tons of organic fertilizer out into the fields. In the oblast it has been decided to grow 162 quintals of potatoes and 235 quintals of vegetables on every hectare. People living in Sakhalinskaya Oblast and the Kurile Islands will thus be self-sufficient in potatoes and vegetables and part will be sold to the state. This is a great change from the situation several years ago when food was brought in from the mainland in dehydrated or canned form. (0000 GMT)

Snow retention is underway in Orenburgskaya Oblast the distance between furrows is four meters, rather than (?12). The thickness of the snow cover is half as much again. In Ulyanovskaya Oblast preparation of sowing equipment, plows and cultivators has been completed earlier than last year. Repair of tractors and trucks is ahead of schedule. (0500 GMT)

In Peznenskaya Oblast all the sowing and tilling equipment, as well as the sowing stock, have been made ready. Eighty-five percent of combines have been overhauled. This is the result of centralized and specialized machinery repair. Modern repair enterprises have been built in the countryside during the 5-year plan, and many farms have rayon Selkhoztekhnika association stations. (1600 GMT)

2 March

In the Kurgan steppe farmers are harrowing the autumn fallow, and are (?sowing) early spring grain and pulse crops. They are preparing the soil for sugarbeet, sunflower and corn. The plenum of the Altayskiy Kraykom held recently in Barnaul discussed increasing production of grain and fodder. This spring the area sown to new high-yield strains of wheat and barley is to be increased, so that they occupy at least 1 million hectares. The farmers have pledged to raise the production of grain crops to 8-8.5 million hectares. There are over 30 million hectares to be sown to spring crops in Kazakhstan. The main attention is paid to grain crops, which will occupy 25 million hectares. The essential quantity of seeds has been prepared. Much attention is being paid to the all-round use of the soil-protection system of arable farming worked out by scientists of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Grain Farming. (0100 GMT)

In Saratovskaya Oblast all the tractors and tillage and sowing machines have been overhauled. Regionally tested seeds--mainly top-class--will be used. Snow retention was carried out on 3 million hectares and fertilizer has been applied. (0200 GMT)

Experts think that winter crops in Kuban have fared better in this year's snowless winter than last year. Now that the thaw has come, the shoots are thick and are becoming stronger. Mineral fertilizer is now being fed to them from the air. (0500 GMT)

Valeriy Parkhomenko talks about field work in Azerbaijan. He notes in particular that lucerne has been sown in the southern regions and interviews Nikolay Ivanovich Sorochkin, senior agronomist of the Department of Animal Fodder Production of the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan. [item continues]

The latter notes the date of start of spring work moving increasingly toward the winter: in comparison with last year's 5 March start, for example, this year's spring work commenced in February. This is explained by favorable weather as well as by better preparation. Lucerne has been sown already on 1,170 hectares. Early sowing helps efficient utilization of moisture, the seeds begin to germinate and grow immediately: They are in the soil in time for early spring rains, so that first harvest can be carried out at the end of May. Over 1,200 fodder brigades have been set up in the republic which are fully equipped to carry out all kinds of work, from sowing until harvest. There are over 100 units producing vitaminized meal and grassmeal. Animal production is experiencing great expansion this year. Sorochkin gives an account of the Red Banner being awarded to Azerbaijan and adds that animal productivity should be increased. (0900 GMT)

In Kurskaya Oblast grain seeds have been made ready; the quality is considered higher than last year. The Ukraine has completed preparation of sowing and tilling equipment and is now engaged in preparing the harvesting machines. (1300 GMT)

3 March

In Leningradskaya Oblast a fast-ripening variety of potato will be planted on more than 12,500 hectares. This potato can be grown in various soil and climatic zones. (0200 GMT)

In Uzbekistan the first 100,000 tons of high quality cotton seed have been supplied to farms by cotton cleaning enterprises in the republic. Some 220,000 tons of seeds have already been cleaned. More than 90 percent of the seeds have first or second class germinating capacity. (0200 GMT)

In southern Tadzhikistan, winter crops growing well. Aviators are top dressing the crops in Kulyabskaya Oblast and the Vakhsh Valley. Farmers have pledged to produce 300,000 tons of grain. (0500 GMT)

In southern Kazakhstan, top dressing is being applied from the air to winter crops. Seeds for spring crops are being prepared for an area of more than 30 million hectares in the republic. (0800 GMT)

In Altayskiy Kray, more than 6 million hectares will be sown to crops this spring, mostly with high-yield wheat, barley, pulses and fodder crops. About 4,000 large sowing complexes are being formed. (0900 GMT)

SOLOMENTSEV ADDRESSES VORONEZH AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

LD031542 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A zonal conference on the further development of agriculture and stockbreeding on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Central Chenozem Zone is being held in Voronezh today. Among those taking part are fieldworkers and farmworkers, farm chiefs and specialists, and workers of party and administrative bodies from Belgrodskaya, Voronezhskaya, Kurskaya, Lipetskaya and Tambovskaya oblasts.

The conference was addressed by Comrade Solomentsev. candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. He conveyed to all working people of the Central Chernozem oblasts cordial greetings from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, and wishes for the attainment of fresh successes for the good of our motherland.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON 62D ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY, NAVY

Moskalenko: World Scene

LD030921 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "In Honor of the Glorious Anniversary: Ceremonial Meeting in Moscow"]

[Text] The Central Academy Theater of the Soviet Army greeted its guests on 21 February in festive and holiday mood. Army and navy veterans, representatives of Moscow working people, servicemen from the capital's garrison came here to celebrate the 62d anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

1700: The places in the presidium were taken by Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; N. I. Savinkin, chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; USSR ministers V. A. Kazakov, S. A. Afanasyev and E. K. Pervyshin; Marshal of the Soviet Union N. V. Agarkov, chief of general staff of the armed forces and USSR first deputy minister of defense; Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy minister of defense; Army General A. A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General S. K. Tsvigun, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; Army General G. K. Tsinev, deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; Lt Gen Yu. M. Churbanov, USSR first deputy minister of internal affairs; Army General V. F. Tolubko, USSR deputy minister of defense; Army General I. G. Pavlovskiy; Mar Avn A. I. Koldunov; Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. Moskalenko; Army General S. K. Kurkotkin; Army General A. T. Altunin; Marshal of Signal Troops N. N. Alekseyev; Eng Col Gen N. F. Shestopalov; and also Army General I. N. Shkadov, chief of the Main Personnel Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense; Marshal of the Soviet Union V. I. Chuykov; Army General P. I. Batov, chairman of the Soviet War Veterans Committee; Mar Avn A. I. Pokryshkin, chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee; marshals, generals, admirals, officers, representatives of party, soviet and public organizations and USSR pilot-cosmonauts.

V. I. Makeyev, secretary of the Moscow Gorkom, opened the ceremonial meeting.

To tumultuous applause from those present an honorary presidium was elected for the ceremonial meeting, consisting of the Politburo of the Leninist CPSU Central Committee headed by L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Soviet servicemen were warmly and cordially greeted and congratulated on their holiday by Hero of Socialist Labor M. S. Paramanov, a printer from the A. A. Zhdanov Printing Plant, on behalf of the capital's working people and by Yu. A. Dergausov, Komsomol Central Committee secretary, on behalf of Komsomol members and young people.

Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. Moskalenko, USSR deputy minister of defense, cordially congratulated those assembled and all armed forces personnel on Soviet Army and Navy days and thanked the comrades who had spoken for the cordial congratulations and wishes to army and navy servicemen for new successes in their military labor and service for the good of the motherland.

The 62d anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, he said, is being celebrated under conditions of confident progress by our motherland in all the basic directions of the activity of the party and people. The country has embarked on the concluding year of the 10th 5-Year Plan. In the past 4 years the Soviet people, fulfilling the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum, have scaled new heights in communist building.

Socialist democracy has undergone further development and the new Constitution reliably insures Soviet people's rights and protects their dignity.

The competition to fittingly greet the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War is broadening everywhere.

All these successes have been achieved thanks to the selfless labor of the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party. The Soviet people and army and navy servicemen respond to this with boundless trust in their own party, undividedly support its domestic and foreign policy and tirelessly struggle for its implementation.

The nomination as first candidate deputy to the supreme soviets of all the union republics of that outstanding political and state figure of today--Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev--was a striking expression of the love and trust of the entire people in their own party.

We all well know with what persistence the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and Comrade L. I. Brezhnev personally wage the struggle for peace and peoples' security and for the termination of the arms race, detente and disarmament. This policy has deep roots. All peace-loving forces support this policy and it has every chance of remaining the leading tendency in interstate relations.

However, Comrade K. S. Moskalenko went on, recently as a result of deliberate actions by U.S. imperialism the international situation has been appreciably complicated. The United States still claims the role of world gendarme and is striving to change the correlation of forces in its own favor.

Under these conditions the CPSU combines a consistent struggle for peace with a firm rebuff of all attempts whatsoever by imperialist reaction and the Beijing hegemonists to undermine it and displays concern for heightening the vigilance of Soviet people and for strengthening the country's defense capability and the combat readiness of the army and navy.

Successes in the development of the socialist economy and achievements in the sphere of science and technology have made possible substantial qualitative transformations in all spheres of military affairs. Our army, air force and navy are today equipped with the most modern weapons. Substantial changes have taken place and are taking place in all branches of the armed forces. Their organizational structure is improving and the forms and methods of personnel training and education are improving. The combat readiness of formations, units and ships has been raised to a new level.

Our servicemen, Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. Moskalenko said in conclusion, unreservedly committed to the ideals of communism, are greeting the 62d anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy with new successes in combat and political training and in resolving the tasks set for the armed forces by the party and government. With their moral and physical forces at full stretch they are improving field, air and sea training and tackling the complex and responsible tasks set by the USSR minister of defense for the 1980 training year. The high socialist pledges adopted in honor of the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and of the 35th anniversary of victory are being successfully fulfilled.

To tumultuous, prolonged applause a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and to Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was unanimously adopted.

After the ceremonial part a big festive concert took place.

Gorshkov: Peace, Socialism

ID031301 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Article by Fleet Admiral and Hero of the Soviet Union S. Gorshkov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the navy, under the rubric "Tomorrow is Soviet Army and Navy Day": "Guarding Peace and Socialism"]

[Text] The socialist homeland's armed defenders are greeting their holiday--the 62d anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy--in an atmosphere of nationwide political upsurge and labor enthusiasm created by the preparations for the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth. Special significance is imparted to the festival by the fact that it is being celebrated on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, which provided most convincing proof of the Soviet military organization's superiority over the war machine of international imperialism, whose strike force was German fascism.

The CPSU Central Committee report to the party's 25th congress Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev called our armed forces the guard of the Soviet people's peaceful labor and the bulwark of world peace.

Those words acknowledge the lofty purpose of the Soviet Armed Forces and point to one of the most important features of the socialist army. Being of one flesh and blood with the people it derives its strength from indissoluble unity with them and from the incontestable advantages of the socialist social and state system. The Communist Party's wise leadership is the chief source of our army and navy's invincible strength.

The birth of the Soviet Armed Forces was inseparably linked with the name and deeds of V. I. Lenin. He elaborated and substantiated the military program of the proletarian revolution. Lenin's formula "any revolution is only worth something if it is able to defend itself" was a classic expression of the essence of Marxist teaching on defense of the socialist homeland.

And this Leninist tenet was proved by the entire course of the Great Patriotic War. Having driven the enemy from their homeland, the Soviet Armed Forces worthily fulfilled their lofty liberation mission and their international duty with regard to a number of states which had fallen under the fascist yoke. Fulfilling its commitments, the USSR made the decisive contribution to the defeat of militarist Japan--Hitler's chief ally.

Our people have been living under conditions of peace for very nearly 35 years. But the lessons of the last war, in which our country lost approximately 30 percent of its national wealth and more than 20 million human lives, called and still calls for vigilance.

With the formation of the world socialist system defense of the peoples' revolutionary gains became a collective affair. This unity found most graphic expression in the creation and strengthening of the Warsaw Pact, whose 25th anniversary will be celebrated soon. This military-political alliance of the socialist countries fulfills important historical functions, fetters imperialism, limits its potential for exporting counterrevolution and insures the security of world socialism. The Soviet Armed Forces are a strong component of this alliance and a reliable guarantee of the further strengthening of forces advocating peace and detente. Our country is greeting the nationwide festival in a complex international situation. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government are persistently implementing the peace program elaborated by the 24th CPSU Congress and developed by the 25th congress and consistently launching initiatives aimed at strengthening peaceful cooperation among states and at detente. [paragraph continues]

The party's Central Committee headed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has taken many important steps in this direction.

Army and navy servicemen, like all Soviet people, warmly approve and support the domestic and foreign policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. Profoundly aware of their purpose, they confirm in practice their readiness to fulfill their constitutional duty in an exemplary manner.

The armed forces have now risen to a new level in their development and are capable of resolving any task set by the party. Their invincible striking power is fused in the united brilliant constellation of branches of the armed forces. The strategic missile forces, ready to bring their all-shattering might down without delay upon an aggressor who has encroached upon our people's peaceful labor and security, continue to serve as a dependable nuclear shield. Our ground forces are tirelessly improving their military skill and the art of combining maneuver and fire, of rapid attack and invincible defense. The country's air defense forces are scaling new heights of military skill. Reliably protecting the country from air attack, they are mastering varied combat hardware in persistent combat training, mastering sophisticated methods of its combat utilization in a complex combat situation and improving cooperation with all other branches of the armed forces. Our air force, which has first-class aircraft of various designations and radioelectronic facilities at its disposal, is continuing to improve itself in its combat training.

The Soviet Navy fulfills its tasks in single combat formation with the other branches of the armed forces. Its ships, defending their motherland's sea borders and safeguarding the Soviet Union's state interests at sea, are constantly situated where this is necessary for the interests of its security.

We have recently been hearing voices from across the ocean saying increasingly frequently that Soviet ships pose a threat not only to the peoples of various countries but also to U.S. national interests. We have no doubt that the peoples of many countries can themselves evaluate at its true worth the Soviet fleet's real contribution to the common cause of strengthening peace on earth and preventing imperialism's aggression and encroachments upon the freedom of many countries which have achieved independence or are waging the struggle for their independence. And as for the so-called "Soviet military threat" to U.S. national interests, the thing is that the presence of Soviet ships in particular regions of the ocean prevents imperialist forces from fulfilling their police functions with impunity and exporting counterrevolution to countries which are escaping from the yoke of imperialism.

American imperialists use the myth of the "Soviet military threat" to justify their aggressive actions against the peoples of various countries, to intimidate the American taxpayer and to cover up and disguise the arms race and preparations for war. They use this same propaganda method to substantiate the reasons for concentrating their naval forces in the Indian Ocean. And they are not embarrassed by the fact that none other than the United States, in answer to Iran's just demands, is threatening it with military force. Stopping at nothing, they and their Chinese accomplices are continuing to form gangs of mercenaries in Pakistan, reckoning on stifling the revolution in Afghanistan at their hands.

A significant role in building up the imperialist powers' military might is allocated to their naval forces. Approximately one dollar in every three in the huge, rapidly increasing U.S. budget is spent on them. There has recently been a rapid buildup of the U.S. military presence in a number of regions of the world ocean. Here special attention is devoted to oil-rich regions.

Soviet servicemen know the subterfuges of imperialism and are continuing to increase their vigilance and improve combat readiness in response to their intrigues and the fueling of international tension.

Soviet people rightly proud of their servicemen and call service in the armed forces a school of life, a school of courage and of ideological and moral tempering. The army and navy became such a school on the first day of their existence. Many of those who built Magnitka and Komsomolsk-na-Amure, created the first kolkhozes and made scientific discoveries passed through that school. Many of those who are building the Baykal-Amur main railroad, constructing Atommash and extracting Siberia's oil have also received army and navy training. And we are seeking to enhance the educational role of the armed forces. This is one of the tasks of military councils, commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations stemming from the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Further Improving Ideological and Political Education Work." The party's wise leadership, unbreakable unity with the people and profound patriotism are the sources of our strength and invincibility. Unity with the people and cohesion around the party will be demonstrated once again by the upcoming elections to the republic supreme soviets and local soviets. And many representatives of the glorious armed forces have been nominated candidate deputies.

Sobolev: 'Aggressive Imperialism'

ID291703 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Feb 80 p 3 ID

[Article by Col Gen M. Sobolev, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate: "Glory and Pride of the Motherland"]

[Excerpt] Although imperialism's forces have been weakened since World War II, its nature has remained unaltered and aggressive. Imperialism above all is to blame for the fact that at the end of the seventies and beginning of the eighties the international situation has been made markedly more complex. The U.S. ruling circles and their allies in the aggressive NATO bloc encountering the realities of the world today are trying to delay the course of history.

Ignoring the constructive Soviet proposals aimed at strengthening peace and security in Europe, the U.S. administration, embarking on the path of bellicose hegemonism, has published an extensive long-term program for a sharp buildup in all types of armaments.

U.S. ruling circles have recently been strenuously fueling hysteria around the events in Afghanistan and trying by every means to distort the essence of Soviet policy with respect to our southern neighbor. Speculating on the events in Afghanistan, the U.S. leadership has proclaimed a series of measures to curtail Soviet-U.S. ties with a view to bringing pressure to bear on the Soviet Union and forcing it to renounce its international aid to the peoples struggle for their liberation and against imperialism and reaction. All these actions of the United States and the other NATO countries gravely undermine detente and are a direct challenge to the peoples' will for peace and are an attempt to violate the prevailing equilibrium of forces.

The Beijing leadership acts in the role of accomplice to the reactionary imperialist forces. The Beijing leaders who have entered into an open alliance with imperialism are mounting increasingly malicious attacks against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The danger of war remains a stark reality of the present world situation. Under these conditions the CPSU and the Soviet Government, pursuing a consistent policy of peace, have been obliged to display unremitting concern for the consolidation of the country's defense and the improvement of our armed forces. [paragraph continues]

The tremendous successes in developing the socialist national economy and the achievements of Soviet science and technology have made it possible to provide the Soviet Armed Forces with the most modern combat equipment and weapons. This formidable equipment and these weapons are in the hands of skillful servicemen devoted to the motherland, the hands of patriots and internationalists.

The commanders, political workers, and army and navy communists, guided by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, and Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's speeches on foreign policy issues, explain to the servicemen the complex and contradictory nature of the present international situation and the danger of the aggressive imperialist course. They are mobilizing the personnel to maintain a high degree of vigilance and combat readiness and fulfill their set tasks in exemplary fashion.

Ivanovskiy: Diminishing International Tension

AU252206 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23-24 Feb 80 p 6 AU

[Text of article by General of the Army Yevgeniy Ivanovskiy, supreme commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, on the occasion of the Soviet Army's 62d anniversary]

[Excerpt] The Soviet people need peace in order to fulfill the great tasks of building communism. The CPSU and the Soviet Government therefore direct their principal efforts unswervingly and consistently at securing peaceful conditions, harnessing the arms race, deepening detente and creating a climate of trust among countries and peoples.

Guided by a sincere wish to diminish international tension and consolidate peace, the Soviet Union in the course of the last years has submitted a series of definite proposals to consolidate detente. One important step on this path toward the consolidation of peace and the security of the peoples were our state's peace initiatives which L. I. Brezhnev submitted in his speech in Berlin on 6 October 1979 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the GDR's founding. The initiatives met with great response in the hearts of all who wish for peace and detente.

The events of the past months, however, show that imperialist forces, above all certain U.S. circles, have adopted the course of a stepped-up arms race and fueling of tensions. In answering to our declaration of readiness to reduce the number of medium-range nuclear weapons from the present level, the NATO Council meeting of December 1979 decided to deploy 572 nuclear medium-range missiles in central Europe.

At a time when the first transport convoys were leaving GDR territory with Soviet military members, tanks and other combat equipment, the countries of NATO's Eurogroup announced their decision to include in their 1980 armament program an additional 640 tanks and armored vehicles, more than 200 guns, 320 airplanes and helicopters and other weapons and combat equipment.

Under U.S. command, imperialist circles started a noisy anti-Soviet campaign in connection with the military aid given by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan. They embarked on a course of boycotting the Olympic games in Moscow and of breaking already concluded treaties. With this campaign, the imperialist circles want to camouflage their peace-threatening plans.

Under the veil of an invented "Soviet expansionism," NATO's military-political leadership urges with increasing emphasis an expansion of the sphere of influence of the North Atlantic bloc. [paragraph continues]

It strives to alter to its advantage the approximate military balance which has come into being in Europe, to achieve superiority over socialist countries and to create again an atmosphere of cold war.

It would benefit those short-sighted Western politicians who want to submit the positions of the USSR and the countries of the socialist community to a test of strength to recall that attempts to expose us to pressure have always met with an ignominious end.

"We face the future with optimism," said L. I. Brezhnev, "and it is a well founded optimism. Our people and our country are proceeding with firm step on the path of building communism! They are fulfilling the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan and the future-oriented instructions of the party. The Soviet people and our friends abroad can be convinced that Lenin's foreign policy course is unshakable."

Europe, which has repeatedly been the scene of the most cruel and devasting wars, has been living without war for 35 years. This is the great merit of the Soviet people, our Communist Party. The CPSU Central Committee and the personal merit of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the peoples of the socialist community of states and their spearheads, the communist parties.

An important role in consolidating peace in the whole world is played by the Soviet Armed Forces. They vigilantly guard the peaceful construction work of Soviet citizens and the peoples of the Warsaw Pact member states.

The members of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany fulfill the honorable and responsible mission of standing in peaceful vigilance in the frontrank. The decisions of the November Plenum (1979) of the CPSU Central Committee and the decision of the CPSU Central Committee "on the 110th birthday of V. I. Lenin" have met with great response among them. They are fully determined to do everything possible to honorably fulfill the tasks for the new training year, to further increase the level of the military training of personnel and the combat readiness of troop formations and units.

Socialist competition aims at higher quality and efficiency in training. This year it is following the theme "Fulfill Lenin's legacy in honor, improve political and military training, always ready to protect the homeland, the great achievements of socialism."

The members of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany fulfill their tasks in reliably protecting socialist achievements together with their brothers in arms, the members of the GDR's National People's Army. Our brotherhood in arms is a glowing example of proletarian solidarity and socialist internationalism, of the unity of the armies of the socialist states. This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Warsaw Pact, the reliable guardian of peace, socialism and the security of the peoples.

Within the framework of the celebrations, on the occasion of the 62d anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces and the 24th anniversary of the GDR's National People's Army, the traditional week of brotherhood-in-arms between the members of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and the National People's Army is taking place from 23 February until 1 March. It will serve the further consolidation of friendship and brotherhood-in-arms between the members of our armies.

The Soviet forces have been vigilantly protecting peace and socialism for 62 years. Closely rallied around Lenin's Communist Party, they will continue to prove to be reliable guardians of the achievements of socialism and a firm bastion of world peace, in close combat alliance with the allied armies of the countries of the Warsaw Pact.

SUBMARINE FLEET LABELED DEFECTIVE, UNDERMANNED

LD281235 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Feb 80 p 13 LD

[Unattributed report: "Soviets Reportedly Have Problems in Recruiting Crews for Their Missile-Launching Submarines"]

[Text] According to French naval expert Jean Labayle-Couhat, in an article comparing the U.S. and Soviet war fleets published in the last issue of LA NOUVELLE REVUE MARITIME, the Soviet Union is having difficulty in recruiting crews for its nuclear submarines.

The Soviet Yankee and Delta class strategic missle-launching submarines apparently have "structural faults possibly due to the haste with which they have been built, the Soviet Union wanting to be in a position of strength during the SALT I and II agreement at any cost."

In addition, Mr Labayle-Couhat goes on, "everybody is agreed that the Soviet Navy is experiencing difficulty in recruiting qualified crews for its nuclear submarines. All this could explain why, against all expectations, the Soviets have modernized their diesel-powered strategic submarines which are now more than 15 years old. The range of their missiles has been increased."

The Soviet fleet now contains a total of more than 320 submarines, of which 68 are strategic nuclear missile-launching submarines and 94 are nuclear attack submarines intended mainly for attacking surface ships.

With regard to personnel, Mr Labayle-Couhat points out that the Soviet Navy has a slightly higher proportion of officers (around 57,000) than the world's other navies but a much smaller proportion of petty officers (a total of 84,000 petty officers--the equivalent of NCOS officers in the other branches of the armed forces).

"The reason why there are so few petty officers in the Soviet Navy," the article's author writes, "is that this career does not interest young people and very few sailors stay in the navy once their period of service is over. The vast majority of crews in the Soviet Navy are based on drafted recruits. Despite the 3 years which they have to serve (2 years in the army and naval air service) the Command apparently has great difficulty in finding and then selecting competent personnel capable of using increasingly sophisticated equipment. This is why the armaments on nuclear submarines are posing problems. According to some reports there is only one crew on board nuclear missile-launching submarines."

In France, to maintain operational patrols permanently at sea, each nuclear missile-launching submarine has a "blue" crew and a "red" crew (each having 135 men), which man the submarine in turn.